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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 16, Number 17 **April 30th 1981**

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While no longer an easy target, weakfish continue to create the greatest stir among L.I. anglers. See the article, "Downside Weaks," on page 18 for some advice on how to improve your score despite slimmer pickings.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **EAST END: SNOW SHOES — POLLACK**

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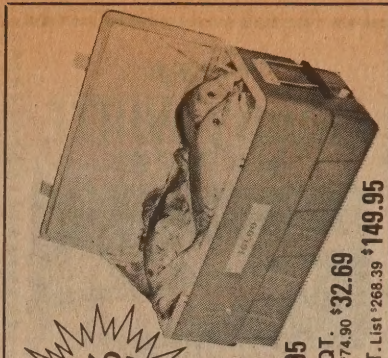

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EDITORIAL

L.I.F. SUBMITS WRITTEN COMMENTS TO MID-ATLANTIC COUNCIL ON BLUEFISH MANAGEMENT PLAN

Many of you already are aware that I had been the Chairman of the Squid and Butterfish Subpanel from 1978 into 1980. That Subpanel made recommendations to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council to assist in the development of the plan. The Squid/Butterfish Plan is final and although changes may be made from time to time, we at The Fisherman believed that it was time to move on to other matters. Following the tremendous turnout of recreational anglers at the National Marine Fisheries Service-Mid-Atlantic Council public hearings on bluefish, we felt that the mandate of our readers was clear. Therefore, in the Summer of 1980, I asked for appointment to the bluefish subpanel. That request was granted. The first meeting of the subpanel was held on April 3, 1981 in Philadelphia. Each subpanel member received a preliminary discussion document that presented known data on bluefish catches, summarized the input from the public hearings, and offered four alternatives for the final bluefish management plan. We believe that our readers have the right to see the written document we filed for that meeting and that you have an interest and a need to understand the basics of the plan alternatives. Furthermore, we believe that we can be proud of our collective involvement. Without the huge and vocal turnout at the public hearings, there probably would not have been a quick effort to develop a plan. Second, the input of you, the readers, at the public hearings shaped the plan objectives and the direction taken by NMFS in developing these alternatives. In short, what you are about to read is further proof that when we stand up together and put effort into something, we can achieve much.

INTRODUCTION:

Last summer I requested that my subpanel appointment be changed from Squid/Butterfish to bluefish because of the great importance this species has to the recreational fishery. It was a surprise to us at The Long Island Fisherman when, in 1975, a reader survey indicated that bluefish was the most popular species among our readers. Our commitment to maintain this species as a stronghold for recreational fishermen was reinforced several years ago when thousands of sport fishermen attended NMFS public hearings on bluefish. The message of these anglers was obvious and loud. Recreational fishermen indicated that the development of a management plan was a priority for them and that they considered the traditional recreational dominance in the fishery an immensely important criteria for the development of the plan. In short, about six million saltwater recreational anglers along the East Coast were eager for a management plan that might be helpful in maintaining high stocks of the species.

There were also comments made at that same public hearing, and during the months following the hearing, expressing concern that the commercial harvest of bluefish was growing and that some captains were planning the use of new gear and new techniques to further exploit bluefish, principally for overseas export.

Our investigations have shown that Pomatomus saltatrix *has a profound economic effect on some communities where they are caught in large numbers, as well as being of high recreational popularity. That is, large schools of bluefish in a certain area will set in motion an economic cycle within the recreational fishing industry that parallels recreational activity level. We discovered that no other single species causes the sale and consumption of more tackle, supplies, and bait. This is so due to a combination of factors. First, bluefish is the most popular species so that a run of fish causes more anglers to seek them out. Second, the sharp teeth of the species causes considerable damage to materials. Third, the hard-fighting quality of the species causes considerable turnover of tackle. Thus, the party boat captains, charter boat captains, bait and tackle stores, and tackle manufacturers told us that it would take outstanding runs of four or five species other than bluefish to equal the economic benefits from a good season of bluefish.*

Yet, there is another factor at work. For many species techniques are quite specific. Cod, tuna, and billfish, for example, are really the provence of the offshore fleet and thus, surf fishermen and small boat fishermen rarely, if ever, have the chance to fish for them. The striped bass is a species that is only caught in numbers by fishermen with well-developed skills. The

bluefish, however, does not discriminate in its habits. It will roam the offshore ocean, charge to the head of a bay or harbor, and feed at all the spots in-between as well. Water depth means little and they exhibit few of the shy qualities of some other game fish. Thus, the species is available to virtually every type of recreational angler whether he fishes from the shore or a boat, and regardless of the sophistication of his tackle or techniques. The point is supported by Table 13, page 30, of the discussion document recently sent to us. A few simple calculations reveal the following. In the New England region, 66.4% of the bluefish taken by recreational fishermen were caught within three miles of the beach and the inland waters. In the Mid-Atlantic region the percentage was 58.2%, for the South Atlantic 64.2%, and overall for the coast the percentage was 60.92% (data was based upon 1979 surveys). These data show how important the species is to the less affluent angler and that the species is readily available to all ethnic groups, age groups, and that there is very little difference in the availability of the species to fishermen from the Gulf Coast to New England.

General Comments of Plan Strategy:

Table 9 on page 23 of the discussion document shows that the percentage of total bluefish catch taken by recreational and commercial effort has changed since 1960. In 1960, recreational anglers took 90.2% of the total while the data for 1979 indicates a decline to 87.7% of the total bluefish catch. The discussion provided from NMFS on these data suggests that the surveys in the 1960s were less accurate and that the 90.2% is an inflated figure. We do agree with NMFS that earlier angling surveys were less accurate than more recent ones, yet we do not attribute the difference between the 1960 figure (90.2%) and the 1979 figure (87.7%) completely to a less reliable angling survey. It should be recognized that one, commercial interest in bluefish has increased slowly in the 1970s and two, more efficient gear has increased the commercial catch.

The discussion document clearly indicates that an objective of the plan is to maintain "...traditional uses of bluefish." The discussion also states that; "Quotas on the commercial fishery appear to be required." In light of a steady, but small, increase in the commercial harvest and in consideration of the objectives of a sound bluefish management plan, we believe that the plan should provide consistent strategies for restricting the commercial harvest and to gather data on the yearly harvests.

A sound management plan should also take into consideration the large number of children that become involved in the recreational harvest of bluefish. The bluefish caught are of all sizes from juveniles to adults. This represents a traditional use of the resource. For many young people, the pursuit of bluefish is their first encounter with a species of true game fish quality. Their involvement helps to develop angling skills, develop a respect for the environment and conservation philosophy, and involves them in a meaningful outdoor activity. We believe that this traditional use has significant economic and social benefits.

In 1979 marine recreational anglers in the United States caught about 25,000,000 bluefish with an estimated total weight of 96,000,000 pounds. These data demonstrate how important the species is to recreational fishermen. In addition, bluefish are found in many oceans and therefore, the United States Fisheries Management Zone is not needed by foreign harvesters in order to have the opportunity to harvest the species. Thus, we feel that there should be no allocation of the species to foreign vessels.

DISCUSSION OF PLAN ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative 1—take no action. We agree with the analysis of the National Marine Fisheries Service that this alternative is unacceptable.

Alternative 2—U.S. fishermen unrestricted catches, but imposes a 14" fork length limit on size. We agree with the analysis of the NMFS that only one of the three plan objectives would be achieved. In addition, a 14" fork length limit on size would interfere with a traditional use of the resource; that is, the catching of juvenile bluefish called snappers. Further, we have previously presented an argument that this traditional use has significant economic and social benefits to the United States.

Alternative 3—Restrict bluefish catches by commercial and recreational fishermen. We agree with the analysis of NMFS that overall quotas "would involve high management costs and be complicated, if not impossible, to enforce." We also agree that "Strict quotas on all sectors of the fishery...appear to be excessive and unnecessary. At least some of the participants, namely the hook and line fishermen, use a method where self-regulation is a result of the natural conditions of the fishery." We also agree with Radovich [1975] that "...the catch per angler might be expected to decrease more rapidly than the fish population." In addition, the recreational angler is typically less committed to a specific species. Thus, when one species that had been abundant begins to decline in abundance, the natural tendency is for the recreational angler to shift to other species. Since recreational anglers need not consider the market price and cost effectiveness of seeking other species, and is motivated by the desire for fun, relaxation, and recreation the willingness to switch to other species is greater.

Alternative 4—Allow US recreational fishermen unrestricted hook and

(Continued on page 41.)

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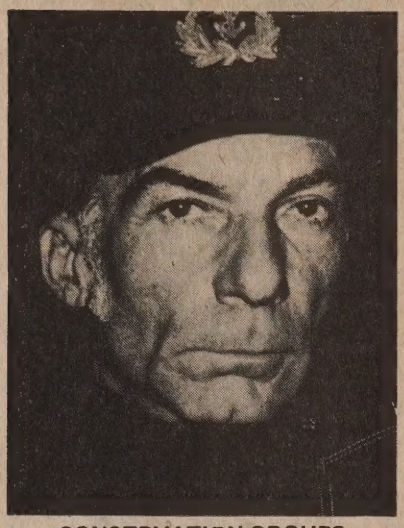

CONSERVATION GROUPS HONORS FIGURELLI

The National Coalition for Marine Conservation (NCMC) has presented its Golden Swordfish Award to Louis D. Figurelli, President of the Natural Resources Protective Association, in appreciation of his "diligent and selfless service" to the cause of ocean game fish conservation.

The NCMC is a non-profit membership organization devoted to the protection of the marine environment and the enhancement of marine resources, and awards the Golden Swordfish annually to those individuals who perform exemplary service on behalf of marine conservation. The inscription reads in part: "...Louis D. Figurelli has given diligent and selfless service to promote the rational utilization of ocean resources. Recognizing that no other reward can exceed the realization of his commitment, the Directors, Advisors and Members of the Coalition hereby express their profound appreciation."

"Lou Figurelli has earned this award for his extraordinary personal commitment and seemingly inexhaustible energy in last year's campaign to amend the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) to include Atlantic bluefin tuna," said NCMC President Frank Carlton. "Though the effort fell just short, the stage is set for likely success this year, thanks in large part to the work of Lou Figurelli."

Mr. Figurelli is a resident of Staten Island, New York.

CLUB NEWS

The Nor-West Fishing Club held its annual club dinner on Saturday, April 4, 1981. The dinner was at Musicaro's in Melville.

The contest winners were:

Biggest bass—Joe Albani; biggest blue—Chip Albion; biggest weak—Joe Albani.

Most Club Points: John Skidmore. Women's Division—Sharon Albion. Flounder Division—Eddie Ezagui.

Junior Division—Bill Young, Jr.; Junior-Junior Division—Doug Sherry.

Casting Contest—Bill Young, Sr.

3 FILMS AVAILABLE FROM STREN

Three new fishing films are available on a loan basis from DuPont's "Stren" fishing line.

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"BASS Masters Classic X," a 26 minute film about the BASS Masters Classic X held in September, 1980 in Thousand Islands, N.Y. The film was made by the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.).

"The Striper Odyssey," a 25-minute film about the growth of a freshwater striped bass population from the saltwater species. This award-winning film features Spider Andressen of **Salt Water Sportsman**

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magazine and professional bass fisherman Bill Dance of "Bill Dance Outdoors." Co-sponsors of this film include Daiwa Corp. and Evinrude Motors.

These three films join such favorites as "The Fishing Connection," an 18-minute film about the technology and performance of monofilament fishing line.

All are available without charge to fishing clubs by writing the DuPont Company, Motion Picture Division, General Services Dept., Wilmington, DE 19898. Requests should be sent about two months in advance, and two possible showing dates should be requested.

MARICULTURE: FARMING OUR OCEANS

A program on Mariculture will be presented by the Marine Environmental Council of Long Island, Inc. (MECLI) on Thursday, May 14, at 8PM, at the Huntington Public Library, 338 Main Street, Huntington, New York.

Speakers involved in mariculture will present slide presentations on the use of Long Island marine waters for the farming of clams, oysters and lobsters. The importance of keeping our bays clean is vital to a viable mariculture industry and is a major concern of MECLI.

The public is invited to attend.

RIVERHEAD SPORTSMEN'S CLUB WEAKFISH TOURNEY

The Riverhead Sportsmen's Club announces the Third Annual Peconic Bay Weakfish Tournament to be held from Friday, May 15, 1981 at 6PM through Sunday, May 17, 1981 at 1PM.

First prize is $100, plus other awards; 2nd prize is $50 plus other awards; 3rd prize is $25 plus other awards; and there are many more prizes.

The official weigh-in station is at the New York State boat launching ramp at Jamesport, N.Y. off Peconic Bay Boulevard.

The $10 entry fee will include an awards banquet at the Riverhead Elks Lodge, 1239 East Main Street, Riverhead, N.Y. at 3PM, Sunday, May 17, 1981. The entry tickets can be obtained from any Riverhead Sportsmen's Club member, and at most local tackle stores.

No entries will be sold after 6PM Friday, May 15.

For more information, call Art Sarno at 727-0841 or Ray Cheshire at 727-4035.

MAJOR EASEMENTS ON UPSTATE TROUT WATERS

With the opening of this year's trout season, fishermen will be glad to hear that over the past year, a number of significant additions have been made to New York's system of public fishing rights. According to Environmental Conservation Commissioner Robert F. Flacke, 16 major easements on prime trout streams were acquired

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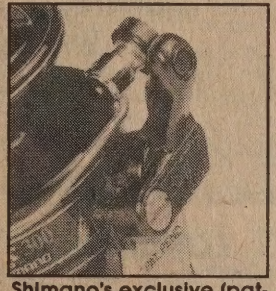

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NEW CATALOG AND "HOW TO" BOOKLET BY RIVIERA

Riviera Marine & Tackle Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, has just completed a new "Strike Zone" booklet on Controlled Depth Fishing.

The new 16-page booklet has many illustrations and charts which detail various riggings and other tips for successful controlled depth fishing with downriggers. The booklet also catalogs the complete line of Riviera Downriggers plus accessories. New products are featured, with unique controlled depth fishing benefits.

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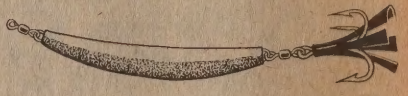
COMMENT PERIOD ON COAL POWERED PLANT EXTENDED

The Natural Resources Protective Association of Staten Island announced that the comment period on coal burning power plant issue has been extended to May 4, 1981. A public hearing will be held on this highly controversial issue with the date to be set at a later time.



BOATING

BOATING COURSE FOR YOUNGSTERS

Shinnecock Flotilla 18-7, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, will be presenting a 4-lesson New York State Safe Boating Course for boys and girls, ages 10-15 at the Westhampton Intermediate School, Mill Road, Westhampton Beach, N.Y., beginning Friday, May 1, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The course and materials are free of charge and upon completion, a certificate and license will be issued. For further information, please contact Joseph Alenski at 728-2366.

Working On Bluefish Plan

by Al Ristori

In response to the great demand from recreational fishermen, the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council has come up with a preliminary draft discussion paper for a bluefish fishery management plan. A meeting of the Bluefish Advisory Subpanel was held in Philadelphia on April 3 and it was decided to go ahead with the planning process.

The major problem faced by the Council in preparing this plan is the fact that most of the bluefish catch comes from waters outside of its jurisdiction. Basically, there are three separate jurisdictions to contend with. The Council controls the waters beyond three miles, but the states are in charge of both the ocean waters within three miles and their internal waters. If necessary, the Councils can pre-empt state jurisdiction over a specific species within three miles. Actually, it's very unlikely that they would do so due to the large number of state government representatives on each Council. Furthermore, in the case of bluefish it may not even be legal to pre-empt as the fishery isn't carried out predominantly outside of three miles. In any case, the internal waters of the states (such as Chesapeake and Delaware Bays) can't be touched.

Why, then, have a bluefish management plan at all? As I've noted on several occasions, the only real danger posed to the bluefish population at present is the possibility that an export market will be developed. Purse seiners could take these fish in huge quantities if they so desired, and they would so desire if they could be assured of a good price overseas. At present, there's a market only for fresh bluefish in the States, and any large quantity dumped on the market drives the price so low that it isn't even worth shipping them. That fact has kept the commercial fishery for bluefish small—and of little concern to the sport fisherman. However, the development of an export market would change all that, and fishermen of foresight are concerned about the possibility that the most important recreational fishery on the Atlantic Coast could be negatively impacted.

Though a Council fishery management plan would only control catches in the FCZ (fishery conservation zone; outside three miles) it could well serve the purpose of discouraging purse seiners from developing an export market. In most cases the seiners would be seeking the large schools necessary for their method of operation in the FCZ. They're already prohibited from working in some state waters, and other states might be convinced to adopt the provisions of the management plan into state law.

The Council draft discussion paper sets out four alternatives as follows:

(1) Take no action at this time—this would mean that the Preliminary Management Plan (PMP) prepared by the NMFS would remain in effect. The PMP regulates only foreign fishing and prohibits foreign fishermen from retaining bluefish.

(2) Allow U.S. fishermen unrestricted catches of bluefish, but impose a fourteen inch (fork length) size limit—the Optimum Yield would equal all bluefish fourteen inches or larger caught by U.S. fishermen. Foreign fishermen would not be permitted to retain bluefish since U.S. fishermen, by definition, would harvest the Optimum Yield. Vessels fishing commercially for bluefish, either directly or as a by-catch from other fisheries, and vessels for hire in the recreational fishery (party and charter boats) which fish directly or indirectly for bluefish would be required to obtain permits and submit reports.

(3) Restrict bluefish catches by commercial and recreational fishermen—Optimum Yield would equal average maximum sustainable yield (47,400 metric tons). Recreational and commercial quotas would be 88.7% and 11.3% of Optimum Yield, respectively, which is equivalent to the distribution of the catch in 1979. Foreign fishermen would not be allowed to retain bluefish. The permitting and reporting requirements set forth under alternative (2) would apply. Certain conditions, such as natural population fluctuations, might make it necessary to either relax or further limit catches of bluefish.

(4) Allow U.S. recreational fishermen unrestricted hook and line catches of bluefish and restrict commercial landings to seventeen percent of recreational landings of the previous fishing year or 7,000 metric tons, whichever is greater—the Optimum Yield would be whatever U.S. recreational fishermen catch plus seventeen percent of recreational landings of the previous year or 7,000 metric tons, whichever is greater. There would be a commercial quota with this alternative, but no recreational quota. Foreign fishermen would not be permitted to retain bluefish. The permitting and reporting requirements set forth under alternative (2) would apply.

The first alternative (no action) would do nothing to prevent the development of an export fishery. The second alternative (fourteen inch length limit) would give each fish a chance to spawn once. However, it wouldn't actually be too meaningful as these smaller blues usually aren't caught beyond three miles. The third alternative (restrict catches by both commercial and recreational fishermen) might be excessively restrictive, almost impossible to enforce, and very costly to manage.

The fourth alternative, or some modification of it, appears to be the most logical choice. Recreational fishermen could continue to take all the bluefish they want, while the commercial fishery would be under a generous quota which allows them to take more than they have historically; but wouldn't be large enough to permit the build-up of a new fleet directed toward bluefish. The Bluefish Advisory Subpanel indicated general approval of alternative (4). However, I agree with Lou Rodia that there shouldn't be a logbook requirement imposed on party and charter boats at this time. While the information provided would be very useful, it would be meaningful only if accurate—and it will probably only be accurate if submitted voluntarily.

Advisors attending the April 3 meeting were Lou Rodia, Captain Dave Bramhall, Harry McGarrigle and Bob Lick—all from New Jersey. John Mason represented the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. LIF managing editor Doc Muller wasn't able to attend, but submitted a position paper which basically supported alternative (4). However, Doc recommended that the commercial quota be cut back to eleven percent of the total landings from the previous year or 5,170 metric tons, whichever is greater—which would make the commercial quota comparable to the historic relationship to the recreational catch. Your reporter is also a member of this advisory panel, but I was out of the country at the time of the meeting.

BOATING TIPS

WATCH WIND & CURRENT

by Bob Whittier

If you were driving your car blithely along and the Expressway suddenly began to shift sideways under you, your reaction would be one of astonishment and dismay, with perhaps a dash of terror added for good measure.

Of course, this is most unlikely to happen—barring a gorilla of an earthquake. But essentially the same thing happens often to everyone who goes boating on the ocean. Your boat can be speeding along with a forward speed of 25 mph and at the same time, be moving sideways at five miles an hour. But unless you're watching for exactly this phenomenon, you won't notice it, because out on open water there are no points of reference by which to detect it.

This course-offset is caused by currents arising from the back-and-forth flow of the ocean's tide, by cross-winds, and by a combination of both. Because their boats are slower, they are more affected by currents, so sailing enthusiasts are much more current-conscious than sport fishermen who use fast powerboats. A book containing tide tables is standard equipment aboard well-found sailboats; but there are some fishermen around who couldn't tell a tide table from a telephone book.

It pays to be aware of tide set. With gasoline prices being what they now are, boatmen can no longer ignore a chance to get a free ride on the tide. If it's possible to plan a fishing trip so the outbound leg goes with the tide, and the incoming leg also goes with it after it has changed, dollars can be saved.

One can also avoid confusion by being tide-conscious. Suppose you're going from the mainland out to an island regularly. The first time you make the trip, if you are oblivious of the local tide currents you might chance to make it at a time of slack tide. Then there's no cross-current. You might note, and remember, the compass heading that gets you to the island, visible on the horizon in clear weather.

Another day may be hazy and you can't see the island. Then, if you head for it using the aforesaid compass course, a strong tide flowing at right angles to your course can carry you sideways all the while you're going ahead. If the island is a small one, you could miss it completely and run out of fuel, far out on the bounding main. Even if it's a large one, making landfall some miles away from the intended place can be confusing. And you can burn fuel needlessly, cruising along the coastline looking for the desired inlet.

It's exhilarating to head out to sea on a brisk, breezy day. But, WATCH THAT WIND!

Modern pleasure boats tend to be high-sided, while at the same time being of modest draft. They have high "windage," to use the seaman's term for a hull that presents a lot of area to the wind while having relatively little keel area to resist the wind pressure. Wind can blow a light, fast boat off-course easily.

If you're traversing a sizable expanse of water when both the current and wind are at work, you can encounter all kinds of combinations of forces. If current and wind are both going the same way and are across your course, they can carry you along sideways to a degree that can be surprising. But if the current is setting one way while the wind blows the opposite way, there can be little overall action to carry you off course. Unless you're awake to the effects of current and wind, "erratic" behavior of your boat can be most confusing!

Awareness of wind is also important for small craft safety. Some days, it will be blowing toward shore. If your motor quits, it will carry you shoreward, and provided the beach is a sandy one, you'll be safe. Of course, if it's a rocky shore line, one does not need a horoscope to predict that you will soon meet some Coast Guard boys, and have occasion to confer with your insurance agent!

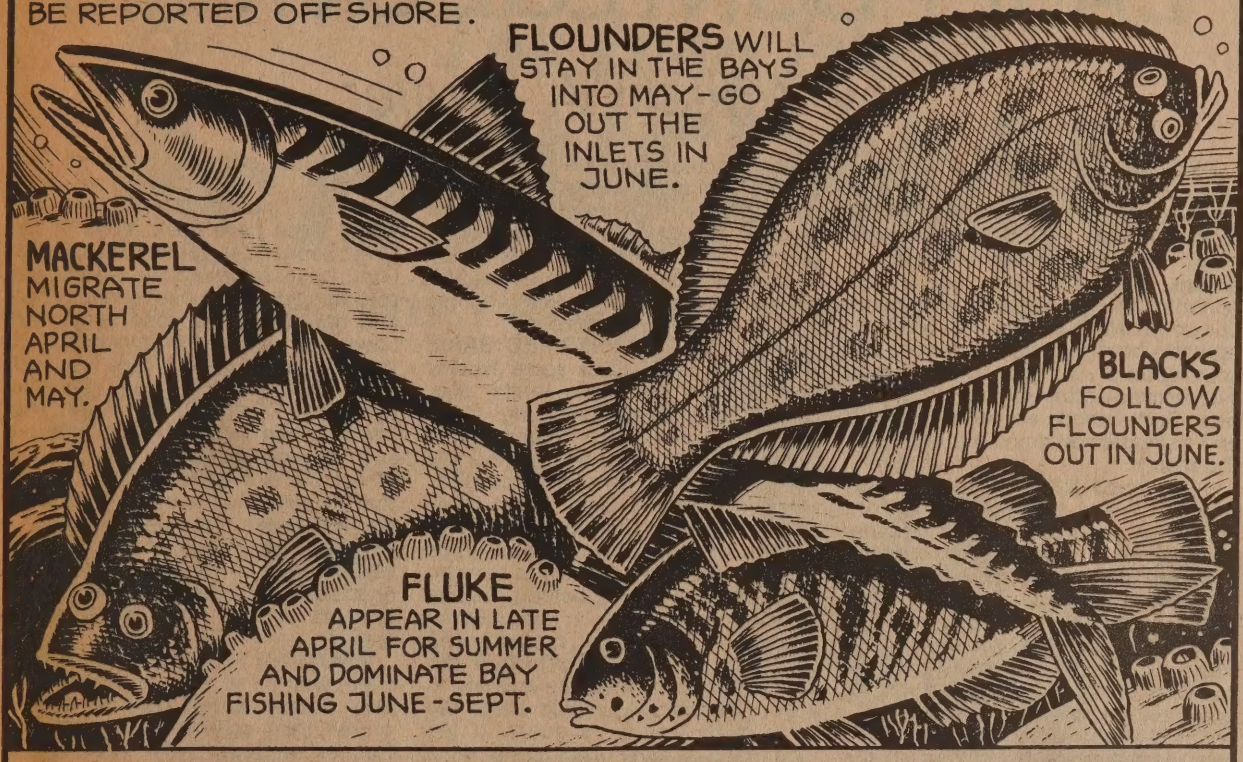
On other days, the wind will be blowing out to sea. In that case, should your engine quit, the wind will start to carry you farther and farther from shore at a surprisingly rapid rate. This is where a long anchor line and a really good hook can be a blessing. The further wind may carry you into deeper water, the less will your anchor hold. Anchors don't begin to develop full holding power until the scope of the line is around seven-to-one. That means that for an anchor to hold well in one hundred feet of water, you need 700' of line. That's a bit more than can practicably be carried in a small fishing boat.

You get the idea: be wary as a cat at a dog show when the wind is blowing out to sea!

EARLY SPRING FISH

BY FRED GUARDINEER

SALTWATER SPRING ARRIVALS SUCH AS FLOUNDERS AND BLACKFISH MEAN A CHANGE OF DIET FROM COD, WHITING OR FILLETS FROM THE FREEZER. THE FIRST FLUKE WILL BE CAUGHT ON A FLOUNDER RIG AND MACKEREL WILL BE REPORTED OFFSHORE.



FLOUNDERS WILL STAY IN THE BAYS INTO MAY - GO OUT THE INLETS IN JUNE.

MACKEREL MIGRATE NORTH APRIL AND MAY.

BLACKS FOLLOW FLOUNDERS OUT IN JUNE.

FLUKE APPEAR IN LATE APRIL FOR SUMMER AND DOMINATE BAY FISHING JUNE - SEPT.

FRESHWATER FISHING GETS OFF TO AN APRIL START WITH THE OPENING OF THE TROUT SEASON FOR BROOKIES, BROWNS AND RAINBOWS.

BULLHEADS WILL BE BITING IN PONDS, LAKES AND SLOW MOVING STREAMS.

SAME HOOK AND WORM GETS 'EM ALL!

SUCKERS ARE AT THEIR BEST IN SPRING, IN NON-TROUT STREAMS.

ALL TROUT LIKE CLEAR, COLD CLEAN STREAMS WHETHER THEY ARE STOCKED OR NATIVE GROWN.

YELLOW PERCH BITE ALL YEAR IN PONDS AND LAKES. ARE WIDESPREAD AND EXCELLENT EATING.

FISH TALK

EARLY CONTEST ENTRIES

by William A. Muller

PROLOGUE: We have already received many fine letters from readers as entries in this year's contest version, "Win A Shakespeare Reel." Not everybody can win, of course, but I do think that we all benefit from the ideas and comments of our fellow fishermen. It isn't too late to enter the contest. Just send your letters to The Long Island Fisherman, addressed to my attention. Each month we select a letter and its author becomes the winner of the month.

JOE HICKERSON of Syosset wrote: "Your tides and currents article of January 29, 1981 finally clarified my understanding of the reversing falls of the St. John's River in New Brunswick, Canada. Some twenty years ago, I spent many hours photographing a complete tide change there. The authorities on the spot could not clearly explain the phenomenon, but you did!"

MARK MORGEN, of Brooklyn. Hey Mark, is Brooklyn still called the fifth largest city in America? Mark had a question about the drought. It's a good question and one that a lot of experts have raised since last summer. "I do all of my fishing in Jamaica Bay. I am planning to do some serious striped bass fishing this spring. I understand that most of the fish I'm likely to catch have come from the Hudson River. I would like to know if the record-breaking drought we're having will seriously affect the river, and are the bass safe for now? Also, what effect does a winter drought have on coastal marine life in general?"

DROUGHTS CAN BE GOOD OR BAD! The way the ecology of this planet is set up, there is no phenomenon or event that will not have both beneficial and disastrous consequences. It depends upon what creature(s) we're talking about. The biology of this planet and its various ecosystems are balanced and that means in part that there are some creatures that flourish when conditions are "normal" and those that have difficulty during normal times. Then, when "normal" goes out the window (such as during a drought) the critters who had been hanging on by their fingernails, so to speak, suddenly find that they are able to flourish. The normally abundant beasts decline in abundance. When conditions go back to normal, then so too does the distribution of the species. Actually, no one really knows precisely what effect the drought will have on certain species of fish that we favor. A drought can effect a species directly and indirectly. Directly by favoring or disfavoring spawning, and indirectly by favoring a certain species of bait over another.

SPECIALLY FOR STRIPED BASS. It has been reported by some experts that drought conditions inhibit successful striped bass spawning. Now, there is some evidence to support this but a final conclusion on the theory is far from being totally accepted. However, since it takes about three years for most of the bass from a year class to enter the coastal fishery, this year's drought is not likely to have an effect on this year's fishing via the vehicle of successful or unsuccessful spawning. Now, the drought will undoubtedly have some effects on the abundance of invertebrate animals as well as baitfish. What this effect will be is really anybody's guess. If the food that bass favor is not found in the usual locations that we fish, then the bass fishing could get rough. On the other hand, if the drought causes an unexpected abundance of a suitable species of bait, then the bass fishing may be superior in spite of the fact that the striped bass East Coast population in general is down in abundance. Then too, many fishing spots on Long Island could experience great bass fishing, while in one or two spots the bass fishing could easily be the pits. Result: if you fish where the bass are, then it was a great season—but if you fish where the bass aren't, then the season was the pits!

LAST THOUGHT! As humans, we tend to see the drought only as a bad thing, yet in nature's system everything has a purpose.

ROBERT REIFFI. "I would like to know if there are any maps which show some of the back-bay and small creek areas of the Great South Bay. I fish in the area west of Amityville in the State Channel and there are a lot of great looking fishing spots. Also, could you recommend a good book that identifies fish in this area." The Long Island Fisherman has been loaded with both artists' renditions and author-made drawings of the South Bay's back-bay area. Typically, these spots are identified by local name, buoy number, and often we indicate what species of fish you can expect to catch there in season with letters such as F for flounder, FL for fluke, SB for striped bass, C for cod, etc., etc. In the books we have published (flounder, weakfish, and fluke) there have been maps of the Great South Bay. Authors such as Doc Grell have explained in words why certain places work better than others and how to get to good spots. We have even published explanations of local names for some places (see Fish Talk) in late 1980. You can also purchase Coast Guard maps that show bottom depths and markers such as buoys. However, I don't know of anyone who sells maps alone for that purpose and the design you seek. As for books for identification, I suggest **The Fishes of the Gulf of Maine** (don't be fooled by the name), or one of several paperback fish books that are sold at most larger newsstands.

ANOTHER DROUGHT VICTIM. Well, with all of this concern for our local species, surely we'll be able to protect them against all comers. Bob Fecher writes; "My question is two-fold. This area is now in a drought and my question concerns flounder fishing and the effects of rain and freshwater runoff from the land into the bays. I fish the western Sound and most of my floundering is done in shallow water from three to fifteen feet. Usually, after a rain the water will be cloudy or not as clear as normal. Generally, the fishing would be poor. Is it possible that fresh water running off the land would effect the salinity of the water and make the flounder move to deeper water? The second part of the question: when there is no rainfall for a long time, does the salinity go up and if so, what are the possible effects on marine life." These two letters show that our readers are thinking and that they are concerned. It also means that many of you are having the same thoughts. I have already answered much of Bob's letter, but yes, high rainfall will cause a decrease in salinity and low rainfall (for a prolonged period) will cause an increase in the salinity. These effects are more prominent in the estuary which is fed by freshwater runoff. The salinity of the open sea is a more or less stable thirty-five parts per thousand. Will heavy rain cause flounder to move to deeper water? I doubt that, but it will often put them off their feed. Could a drought improve the flounder fishing? Could it make it worse? All I can say is, same as above!

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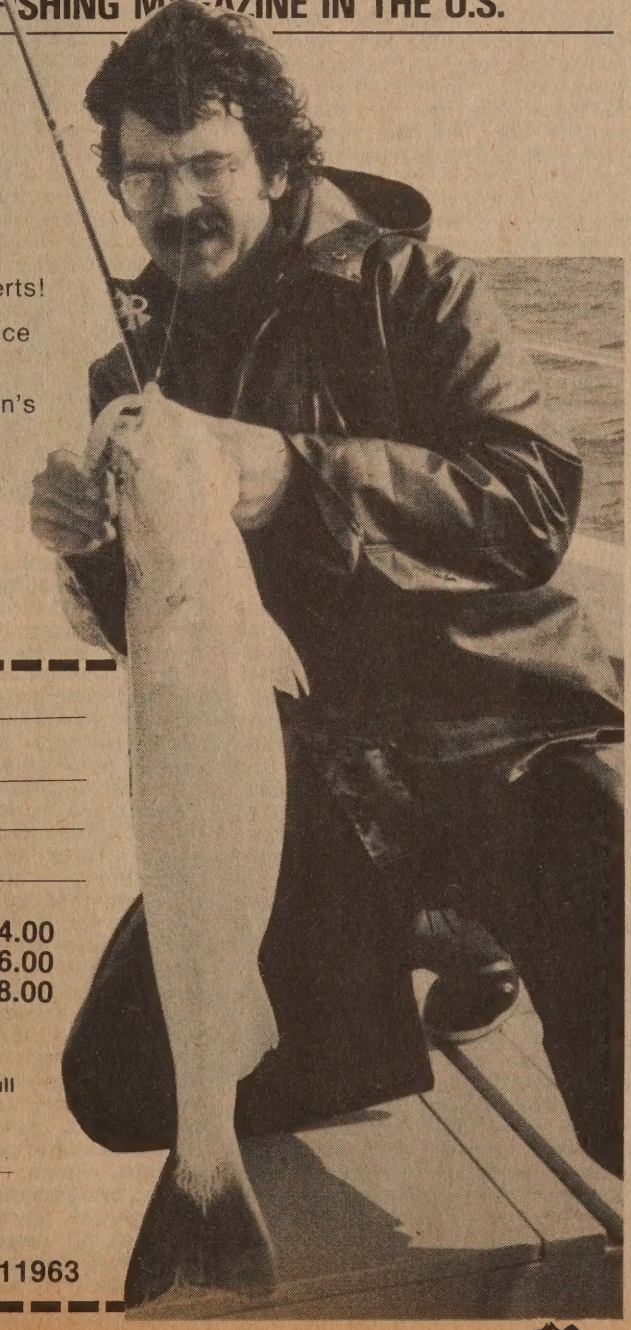

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SINKER BOUNCING

SPRING BLACKFISH

by Matt Ahern

I don't wish to be a spoil-sport, but I have rarely found springtime blackfishing to be as productive as fall blackfishing. This, despite the fact that the largest blackfish I've caught to date was a shade better than fourteen pounds. This beauty was decked on an unforgettable Memorial Day 'way back in the early Thirties. I feel certain, too, that no matter how good, bad, or indifferent my future fall blackfishing may be, I shall never top that fish. I've had many opportunities to do so over those long years, but to no avail.

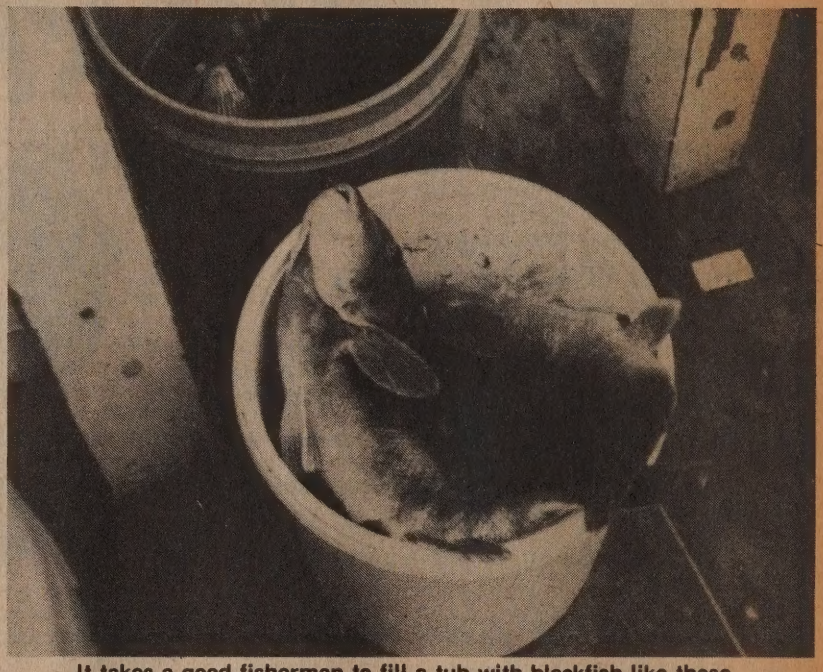
Sure, I know there are many blackfish fans who find springtime fishing as good or better than fall fishing. So before these incensed fellows take heated pen in hand and summon the wrath of the fishing gods upon this old gray head, let me say that I am only quoting from personal experience. And this experience tells me that while I may occasionally catch a goodly number of blackfish in spring, there have been few days when the average fish outweighed those caught in fall.

To verify this, I devoted the better part of last evening checking over my blackfish records. These handwritten accounts cover a period of nearly fifty-five years—beginning the late Twenties and concluding last fall when my final blackfish trip for the year was made aboard the Capt. Clark II (we really slew the fish that day).

These records tell me (the early entries are interpreted on a grand scale with boyish enthusiasm and rambling know-it-all observations) exactly where and how I managed to outwit old chisel-tooth. And I might as well admit that the reliving saddened me, for the many events depicted in those dimmed and distant days caused me to become misty-eyed at the resurrected memories of long-gone buddies. Alas and alack—this is the price all sincere fishermen pay when daring to delve into the past.

So—so much for being a spoil-sport. Now let's get on with our spring blackfishing.

Most experienced sinker bouncers would agree that successful blackfishermen possess skills which put them a notch or two above many bottom fishermen. That these skills were attained by matching wits over the years with this wily bottom feeder goes without saying. I know sinker bouncers who think so highly of blackfish, they personally consider them in the game fish category. And I'm inclined to agree, for certainly few bottom fishing thrills can compare to winching a determined bulldog blackfish to the surface.



It takes a good fisherman to fill a tub with blackfish like these.

So, if you are a newcomer to the bottom fishing game, let me say right now that if you wish to excel in all its varied categories, you can more quickly attain this goal if you first learn how to catch blackfish.

Old chisel-tooth is the greatest teacher of all—and also the greatest leveler. To be able to consistently catch blackfish soon separates the men from the boys, so to speak. Certainly blackfish will teach that required and much-needed patience which is so important in all phases of sinker bouncing. Because fishing for blacks is like no other, one cannot, and does not, become proficient overnight. It is as simple as that.

Blackfish have long been known as the tackle dealer's delight, and with good reason, for they are found wherever underwater obstructions abound. Reefs, sunken wrecks, ledges, bridge abutments, and pilings around old, decaying piers and wharves all have their share of blackfish. Few are caught over open bottom and if you succeed in doing so, it means only that, unknown to you, there is some form of obstruction close by.

I recall fishing flounder in Island Park's Schaeffer's Creek one time when a speeding outboard skiff threw its engine. Those anguished fishermen tried to locate it without success. By accident Nick Hauck and I found it the following year and we always made it a point in springtime to stop off and fish it a few minutes. We never reaped a bonanza, but that now barnacle-encrusted engine never failed to produce several two pound blacks each time we fished it. The moral to all this, of course, is that you've got to fish some form of obstruction if you wish to catch your share of blackfish.

Large areas such as reefs and wrecks offer the pugnacious blackfish secluded caves and crevices needed for protection and food. And because of this, more terminal tackle has been lost while blackfishing than in any other way. Therefore, if you aren't "hung-up" occasionally, you can be certain you're not fishing the best area for blackfish. So be sure to carry plenty of extra terminal tackle.

Large blackfish (and these can show up anywhere at any time) are rugged, powerful fish, and require sturdy tackle to keep the odds a bit

even—this is one bottom fish extremely capable of besting the fishman if given half a chance. Medium weight spinning tackle may be used in shallow water, but I believe, for all-around blackfishing, a sturdy conventional rod and matching reel (preferably with star drag) and filled with at least 150 yards of twenty to thirty pound test good quality monofilament to be a better choice. Bank-type sinkers are preferred and will range from two to eight ounces, depending upon water depth and strength of current.

The best blackfish hook is the Virginia style, size five being a good choice. For fishing rock-cluttered bottom, two hooks can be tandem-tied and placed about one inch above the sinker. For wreck fishing, it is best to use the standard deep-sea, two-hook rig: one hook tied above the sinker, and the other high enough to avoid tangling. In "sticky" areas, fish just the bottom hook. A hooked blackfish will always attempt to regain its sanctuary and that top hook is sure to foul, which usually means the loss of both fish and terminal tackle.

Now we come to the great debate: bait for springtime blackfish.

Some fishermen feel that spring blackfish should be offered only soft bait, such as worm and some form of clam. They claim the black's mouth is tender at this time of year. Whether this is so, I don't know, but I do know I've been aware of this assertion for nearly fifty-five years. So it is nothing new on the fishing horizon. My thought is that it isn't a tender mouth which determines what bait springtime blackfish will accept, but rather each individual's nearness to spawning time. May is the important spawning month for blackfish and this coincides with its immediate fussiness toward bait.

While it is true I did catch my large springtime blackfish on skimmer bait, I have also caught a great many on china-back fiddlers and green crab. And if bergalls are thick on your fishing ground, I believe it is best to use some form of crab. Bergalls will go through clam bait like a mowing machine through a hay field.

If fiddlers are used, they should be china-backs, not the common black mud fiddler. Put them on the hook carefully. Remove a claw and insert the hook inside far enough so that just the point is felt on the opposite side. Green crabs must have their top shell removed and then cut into two or more pieces, depending on size. The hook is then placed through one of the leg holes and the barb allowed to protrude from the opposite side.

Conch is also an excellent bait, especially when bergalls are bothersome. Pry from shell, flatten with a mallet, trim off black skin, and cut into thin pieces about 1½" long. This bait will deter larcenous bergalls long enough to give cruising blackfish time to look it over.

Many fishermen who encounter blackfish for the first time have difficulty setting the hook. This is because the wily cuss attacks bait in two distinct ways. First to be felt are a series of short, rapid nips, then a pause. During this pause the bait is passed back to a second set of teeth known as crushers. (These are located deep inside the mouth.) Should you attempt to set the hook before the bait is passed to these crushers, you are most likely to miss the fish entirely—or at best have a lip-hooked fish. When the bait is passed to the crushers, the hook is felt, and the black will reward you with a strong tug. Now—and only now—is the time to set the hook.

That sturdy rod you should be using is needed now to keep the fish from getting back to the safety of its obstruction-littered home. You must hold your rod high and often sheer strength is required if the fish is large. Once that blackfish gets its head, it's all over. You become another defeated blackfisherman.

Fortunately, because of their living requirements, we still have plenty of blackfish. And this is one reason you see few blackfish on the commercial market. The expense of replacing lost gear is just too much for those who wrest their living from the sea.

But for us sport fishermen, the world of blackfishing is ours. How lucky can we get?

1981
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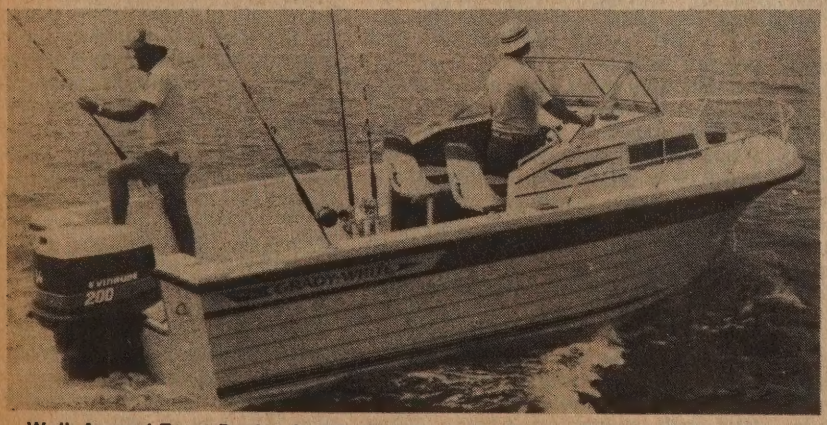

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SPRING IN MINIATURE

by Gerald Hahn

Teddy Roosevelt once made a famous remark about speaking softly and carrying a big stick, but I don't believe he was referring to fishing when he coined the phrase. In fact, if Teddy were alive and fishing in the spring of 1981 instead of 1881 (he was an avid sportsman) he would probably recommend a miniature stick for catching game fish.

Most migrating game fish in the spring are school fish weighing no more than five pounds. This cast of predatory characters includes striped bass, mackerel, weakfish, and bluefish, in order of their appearance. Now, it's true that every surfman would like to land a trophy fish. But the fact is that in the spring the chances of successful game fishing are considerably increased when surfcasters concentrate on school fish. Small predators predominate by far and are more likely to pursue artificials than are their larger relatives. Consequently, anglers who want to catch game fish scale down their outfits to a 6½' to 7½', light spinning rod matched with a mitchell 300, a Penn 450 SS, a Ryobi SX2, or any equivalent reel filled with 8 lb. test, the speed of the reel being less important than a smooth drag mechanism. A light outfit like this is perfectly matched to the quarry and location, since most small fish will be caught behind inlets, in quiet back bays and harbors, or in the calm of Long Island Sound.

One of my favorite spring fishing haunts is along Peconic Bay, where the physical conditions are typical of those encountered by surfcasters trying to land small game fish on light tackle. At places named Sebonac Neck or Towd Point, for example, a shallow backwater system passes through a deep, swift-running channel in the bay. At one spot further north, near Shelter Island, a rather wide creek meanders through a narrow inlet into Peconic Bay. The creek is defined by shallow water and lazy currents, by mud flats sprinkled with eelgrass and other sea plants, and by abundant mussel beds. Rich in nutrients, the creek attracts small baitfish, grass shrimp, minute aquatic insects and crustaceans which are, in turn, preyed upon by bigger fish. You can fish the creek from its banks near a small marina, or, by wading, extend your casting range to a particularly rewarding indentation near the opposite shore. At the mouth of the creek the bottom structure changes to sand, and the waterway narrows considerably through the inlet shored up by pilings. From here, it is so easy to flip even the lightest lure to the opposite bank that, as Red Smith once wrote, "A retarded chimpanzee could fish successfully."

Some lures work better than others and a major problem is landing the fish, the elevation being high. Having lost a few weaks and bass here, I finally learned to bring a long-handled net. And a flashlight, since a considerable part of my spring fishing takes place on overcast nights. Finally, the entrance to the inlet is certainly worth a try, especially because the pilings extend about forty feet into Peconic Bay. It is possible to straddle them, albeit like a tightrope walker, and gain access to deep water, swirling currents, and a nearby sandbar and dropoff along the opposite side of the entrance. Thus, the physical conditions here are, as in many other places, ideally suited to casting small lures, even on windy days, since the creek is protected by woods on one side and houses on rising lawns on the other side.

The first game fish I ever caught here was a school weakfish in early May. The sun was going down and the current had just started moving at a brisk pace through the inlet. I caught the fish on a 5/8 oz., white leadhead bucktail I had been bouncing slowly along the bottom, just behind the inlet. Later on, I experimented with other jigs, all of which, by the way, were tied directly to a 12 lb. test shocker, for I do not like snaps. Soft plastic leadhead jigs are especially effective in the deep channel—Salty Dogs, Mr. Twisters, Boone Touts, Tri-Fin Whiptails and Eelworms, generally weighing 3/8 to 5/8 oz. Oddly enough, all white or all yellow colors were more effective here than the more popular fluorescent reds and pinks. Along the back side of the creek, however, I soon discovered that the calm waters were more conducive to working small three to four inch swimming plugs. These included Rebel Minnows in silver, blue, or mackerel, Rapala floaters in silver, gold, or blue mullet, and Cordell RedFin surface swimmers. Sometimes the jointed models, with their erratic wriggling action, were even more effective here. At the deep entrance to the inlet, sinking, diving, and deep running plugs occasionally produced more strikes than jigs, especially at night. Rapala Countdowns, about 4½" long, Creek Chub Pikie Minnows, the 3-5/8" Mirrolure and the 5¼" Balsa Lite Deep Diver by Cordell, were all worth trying in swift currents. In daylight hours, tin lures under an ounce (Hopkins, Kastmaster, or Krocodile) provided glitter and the best action when accompanied by a single dressed hook for attracting weakfish.

All these lures are most effective on weakfish when they are worked with moderate retrieves in the day and as slowly as possible at night. In the early part of the season, weakfish, here as elsewhere, are readily taken in the day. But as the weather warms by the end of May, more fish are taken at night. At this spot, high and low tide are less important than current flow. The current starts racing about two hours after slack water on either tide. Theoretically, a place like this should be better on the outgoing tide, but I find that it is just as good on the incoming tide. On the outgoing tide, I begin fishing in back and then follow the draining water to the entrance. On the incoming tide, I reverse this. But on poor fishing days (or nights), I may break these rules, and occasionally it works.

Since the current flows gently in the creek, it stands to reason that floating plugs will be most effective there. Especially at night, they create only the slightest disturbance when the rod is gently twitched, frequently pausing as the slow retrieve is made. On the other hand, in the deep channel and at the Inlet's entrance, where the currents are strong and turbulent, leadhead jigs and deep running plugs are better. But in such places, the angler should not simply toss his lure anywhere. He should cast up-current and allow the lure to be swept along as it sinks until it reaches the end of its course. Periodic twitching of the rod tip, followed by slow retrieves, enhance these lures considerably.

Soon I discovered that other predators lurked in the creek. For on one night trip in late May, I noticed several boat fishermen trolling for bass in Shelter Island Sound and figured that their younger relatives would sooner or later head for the creek. The same methods and most of the same lures used for weaks attracted bass, the major differences being that the stripers usually preferred white to other colors, and the

quiet creek to the swifter channel or entrance.

By June, however, the creek witnessed the arrival of the last of our migrating predators, tailor blues wandering in and out of the inlet, mostly during a racing current at dawn or dusk. The blues liked flashing lures worked rapidly at various levels, especially small tins or diamond jigs, and occasionally rose to a small popper, such as the Cordell Near Nuthin' or the Rebel Windcheater in silver. Quick retrieves, fast rod whipping, are better suited to the mean tempered blue than to the wily bass or weak.

Unfortunately, the creek has not been so productive lately. Perhaps the recent dredging of the inlet stripped the bottom of its plant life and altered its contours. Bass are few and far between here—and everywhere else, it seems, except perhaps in the western Sound region. But why the blues have failed to show up I cannot understand, since many are still taken in June by boat anglers in the Peconics. The one predator that continues visiting this spot every spring is the weakfish. And it is fitting, since Peconic Bay was renowned for its weaks even in Teddy Roosevelt's time. Consequently, I fish here primarily for weaks.

As for the other species, I pursue them elsewhere. In the Sound, their most likely haunts are near submerged boulders and rocks. In the bays and harbors, creek and river mouths, and the back sides of inlets are good places to locate them. Likewise, by early June, bluefish show up and disappear in their fashion throughout Long Island, although I usually find the south shore more productive than the north shore. For starters, I check out the backs of the inlets; then I head for the bays, wherever currents are likely to be strong, where bottom contours rise and fall abruptly. Last but not least, the north shore's mid-sector, especially around Port Jefferson and Mt. Sinai, is usually filled with two pound mackerel between the first and third week in May. And if many surfmen do not rate the macks as true game fish, that's their loss. The mackerel may not be as tough as blues, but they certainly make up the difference with their greater speed. On light tackle any small metal lure will attract them. Don't overlook them as table fare either. A freshly broiled mackerel sprinkled with paprika and dabs of butter will give you second thoughts about saving so many for bait.

To be sure, not all spring gamesters are school-sized fish. Some large specimens—cow bass, chopper blues, tiderunner weaks—are caught in May and June. Moreover, the most productive spots are sometimes located in rough terrain or in places where heavy equipment is required. For the most part, however, a diminutive wand will perform better than a big stick. That's why spring fishing is primarily miniature fishing.

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GREAT SOUTH BAY:

DOWNSIDE WEAKS

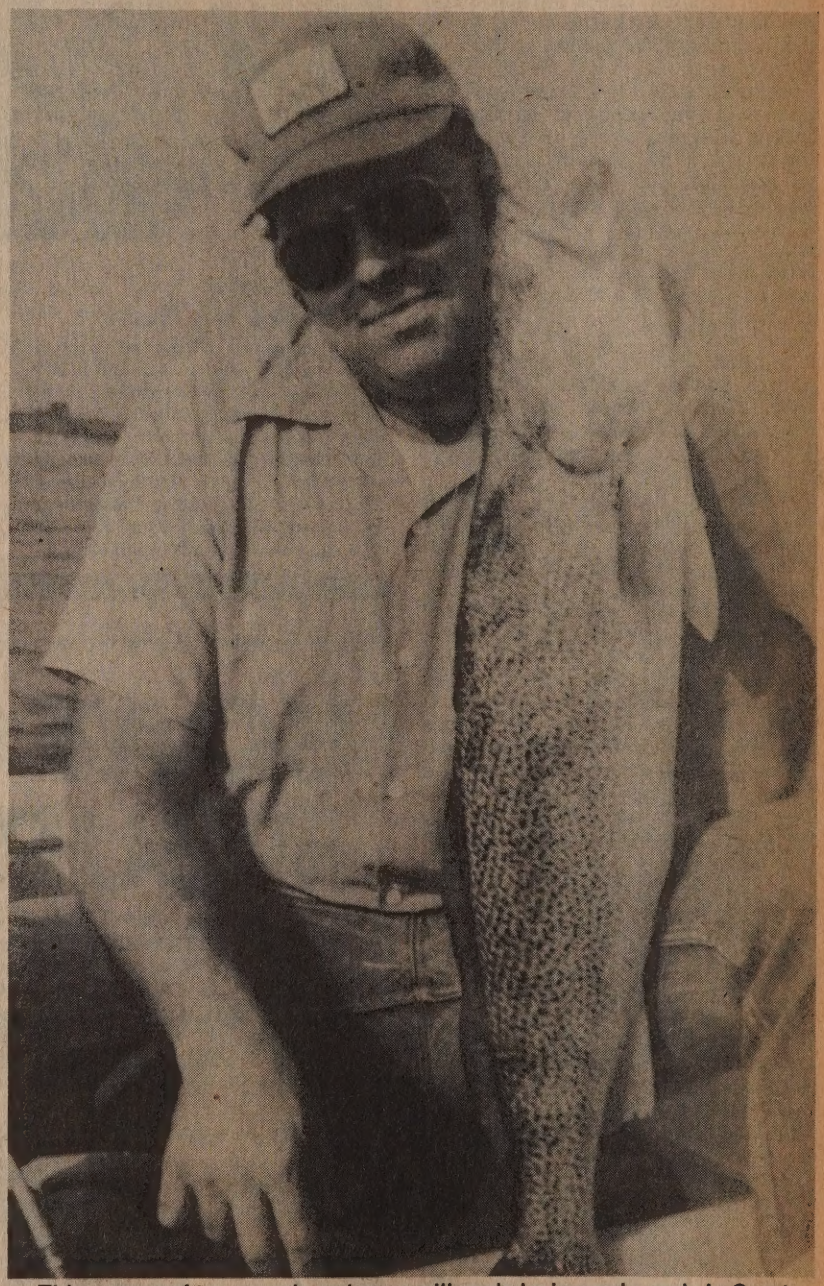
by Fred Golofaro

As fishermen, born of optimism and possessing a penchant for always remembering the better days, we have a tendency to tint the reality of certain situations a rosy hue when in fact, our flowers have begun to wilt around the edges.

I'm referring, of course, to the current state of the weakfishing around Long Island and particularly in Great South Bay. While the memories of drift after drift with two and sometimes three fish on at a time are still at our fingertips, those days are just that: memories! Now I'm not saying that the chance of scoring big does not exist; what I am saying is that as the peak in the species' cycle has come and gone, so, too, have the days when any novice could scoot out for a couple of hours, drop a rubber shrimp in the wake of his drifting boat and catch fish after fish. Such was the fishing back in the mid-Seventies that while running light-tackle charters on the bay, I had become so brazen as to guarantee fish. Not only that, but at one time it reached the point where I would guarantee a minimum of a dozen fish. Many mornings and afternoons were spent releasing fish after fish as we drifted the flats bordering East and West Islands during the May spawning ritual. Those were the good old days indeed!

What about the present? First of all, we are going to have to learn to appreciate a catch of three or four good-sized weaks after being spoiled for several years by catches which, for some, were counted in dozens. I would say that catches of a dozen fish last year were exceptional on Great South Bay and half a dozen tide-runners made for a good day in most anybody's book. Anglers who paid little attention to details or put just token effort into their fishing were lucky to return home with one or two fish. I doubt things will be much different this spring other than that there probably will be a greater number of medium sized weaks in the three to five pound class mixed in with the six to ten pounders that have dominated the fishery in recent years. Once again, it will take at least a teen-size fish to raise an eyebrow and the potential for a record breaker being taken will be as great as ever.

Being able to score regularly in '81 will require refining your tactics. Paying attention to details which are being ignored by those in the boat next to you can make the difference between getting blanked or landing a nice catch of "yellowfins."



Tiderunners of ten pounds and more will again be in good supply in Great South Bay.

Light tackle is a solution which fits the bill to most situations in which the fishing gets "tough." Freshwater fans are well versed in this department if they spend any of their time trying to fool wary, summer trout. So, too, is the summer surf fisherman subjected to conditions which require a switch to "light tackle." On a larger scale, giant tuna anglers must sometimes go to lighter leaders in mono to fool the big horse mackerel when calm, high clarity conditions

prevail. Most people learned early that light freshwater size spinning outfits are best suited to spring-run weaks, but few carried the light tackle philosophy beyond their rod and reel. Anglers who scale down their line, leaders, swivels, and snaps accordingly will be the ones who do the catching.

In Great South Bay, eight pound mono is all that is required provided your reel has a smooth drag system. In the leader department, I use a twenty-four to thirty inch length of 15 lb. mono which is more than adequate as long as you develop the habit of checking it regularly for spots frayed by teeth or rough bottom. Use a snap only if the lure being used has a swimming action which requires the freedom of swing provided by a snap.

Carry along a varied but proven arsenal with which to meet existing conditions. Current, wind and drift can vary from day to day and as a general rule, most weaks are taken down deep on the bottom or just above it. For proper presentation, vary your line weight so that you can fish as little weight as possible while remaining near the bottom.

Instead of just dragging lures along in your wake, try casting "up-drift" and let it swing back down, reeling just fast enough to keep a taut line and imparting a gentle jigging action with your rod tip. Bucktails and any lead-head, whether it has a jelly worm, Twister Tail, or rubber shrimp on it, are especially effective when fished in this manner.

Among the artificials which have proven themselves in the past are bucktail jigs in the 3/8 to 1 oz. size range and assorted lead-heads rigged in conjunction with eight or nine inch jelly worms, rubber shrimp, and Twister tails. Especially effective last season were strawberry or grape jelly worms fished on a white bucktail or a Tri-Fin Diamond-Head jig. Another lure which has produced in clutch situations since the mass return of weaks around 1970 is the mackerel-finished Sinking Rebel in 4½" and 5½" lengths. Carry a few floating models along for the shallows or for night work. I would also include a couple of white Tri-Fin Whiptails in the 3/4 oz. size as well as one or two Alou Elvers in red.

If you make no bones about being a purist, then sandworms are as good a ticket to catching weaks as there is and more and more anglers have been resorting to their effectiveness the past two seasons. Drifting them in the tide with as small a rubber-core sinker as is required to get the offering down into the strike zone is often more effective than fishing them on the bottom with a high-hook rig and a sinker weighing several ounces. Also included in the "meat department" is the art of chumming with grass shrimp. During the prior weakfish boom, this method was the only way to catch weaks in Great South Bay and Peconic Bay. Some anglers continue to do well using this approach, but the expense and effort involved deters most casual fishermen from getting involved. When fish are scarce, few will argue that chumming with shrimp is the way to go.

Some anglers have discovered that by working night tides, they can capitalize on the weaks' nocturnal feeding habits and avoid the crush of boats which is characteristic of the more popular spots during daylight hours. Excessive boat traffic has a considerable effect on the feeding habits of weakfish which puts the after dark boatman at a decided advantage. Another positive aspect to night fishing is that weaks are more prone to feeding near the surface and can frequently be heard cavorting within casting range. Shallow running swimming plugs like the Rebel, RedFin, and Mirro-Lure come into their own under these conditions. If you're not comfortable running at night, try to do your fishing on weekdays if at all possible. Weekend boat traffic has become intolerable in some sections of the bay and is a major obstacle to overcome in your weakfish quest.

Staying alert when on the fishing grounds is another way to ensure getting the most out of your efforts. If one boat is regularly hooking up while others are doing little or nothing, try to emulate the exact drift of the successful boatman without climbing in the boat with him. At times, missing a spot by as little as twenty feet can make the difference in catching or not catching.

Pay attention to the "little things" which make a big difference. Keeping line and leader free of any weed should go without saying; yet some anglers will return a dirty line to the water without hesitation. When rigging a jelly worm or sandworm on a hook, take special care to make sure the offering lies straight along the shaft of the hook rather than in a bunched and unnatural position. Pay close attention to tides as the productive periods seem to be of shorter duration now than five or six years ago when it wasn't unusual to catch fish throughout an entire tide. Following the fishing reports and checking with local tackle dealers is the next best source to being on the water on a regular basis for learning what tidal stage has been producing best.

Regardless of what lengths you go to, there will be few chances to duplicate the outstanding fishing of years past. However, by putting more effort into your approach, you'll have the edge over less studious anglers who are still talking about what once was. You'll probably develop a greater respect, too, for the gallant weakfish because, as many of us have learned, the less you have of something, the more you appreciate it.

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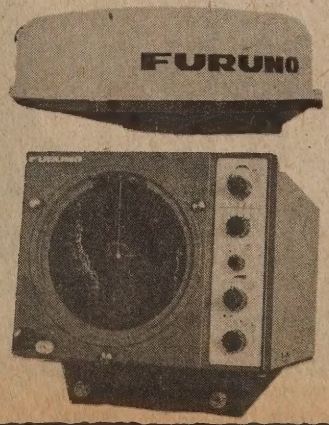


Mackerel Time

by Ron Onorato

Late April is one of those times when most of us are caught in-between things; the flounder are pretty well shot and are starting to thin out, while other species such as the weakfish, blackfish, and fluke have yet to show up in local waters. This leaves many of us in a quandary as to what we are going to fish for. Fortunately, the Good Provider has smiled down upon the angling fraternity, and supplied us with an alternative to empty fish pails. The mackerel, while it may not seem like much, is really a godsend as far as both commercial and recreational fishermen are concerned.

Mackerel fill the void as both a table fish, and for many others, bait for the offshore species. The economic value of the fish is really quite substantial for the coastal states, and this fact was recognized by the various councils along the Atlantic Coast when they made their recommendations as to the amount of the stock that could be harvested by foreign fleets. In addition to the great sporting value of the fish as a recreational source, the mackerel is also prime forage for a great many other species of game fish. It is indeed a very valuable link in the entire marine ecosystem.

The mackerel are very prolific fish, and it is probably this fact that has been responsible for saving it from extermination by the commercial interests. It is a densely schooling fish that travels in great numbers along the depths of the Continental Shelf. This very abundant fish ranges over wide areas of water as they feed on sand eels, spearing, and other small baitfish. They are related to the tuna and are structured very close to the entire family. This means that when hooked, the fish engage in a never-say-die struggle to gain their freedom. These features account for the species' popularity along their entire Atlantic Coast range.

Few anglers really get to appreciate the amazing qualities of this little fish that usually weighs no more than two pounds at the most. Because they school heavily, the fish are usually not sought after one at a time, but are caught with multiple hook rigs that allows you to catch three, four, or even five mackerel at one time. There is nothing wrong with this at all, especially when you are trying to load the freezer with shark or bass bait for the new season. However, once this objective is attained, most anglers should put away the heavy conventional outfits and break out the light, one-handed spinning rods, or if you like, even the fly rods. The fish will certainly put on a show for itself and its true sporting abilities can be appreciated. Even when they are caught one at a time, there are usually more than enough in the fish well to fill your needs.

Mackerel feed heavily on a variety of small baitfish, and once they get going in a heavy feeding frenzy, they will readily strike a wide variety of lures. Single metal lures such as Hopkins and Diamond jigs, small tube lures, and even streamer flies will fool mackerel with varying degrees of effectiveness. The type of lures you will use will be determined by the tackle that you plan to fish with, and the weather conditions that are prevalent at the time.

Far and away the most popular as well as the most effective set-up for loading up with mackerel is by using the multi-hook tinker tube rig, commonly called the Christmas tree. This rig is simply three or four small surge tube lures connected on one main line with a barrel swivel on one end, and a snap at the other. To this snap is attached a three or four ounce diamond or other shiny jig. When this

"Bostons" are great sport on light spinning tackle, as demonstrated by George Oliver.

When fishing for the box, multiple hook rigs can account for several fish at a time.

outfit is brought through a school of mackerel, it is not uncommon to have five mackerel on at one time. These mackerel trees are usually fished on a conventional rod with a matching reel filled with thirty pound mono. When the boat is sitting right on a school of mackerel, it is possible to load several hundred fish a man in a relatively short period of time. If you are out to fill the bait freezers for the summer, then this is the way to go, especially since a single frozen mackerel during the summer might cost you as much as a buck.

The rig is fished pretty much the same way a single diamond jig is fished. The entire rig is lowered to the bottom, or reasonably close to the bottom, and retrieved back to the surface in a rapid, but steady retrieve. Somewhere along the retrieve, one or more mackerel will make a grab for the tubes or jig. What will happen a lot of times is that a single mackerel will make a play for the tube and when he is hooked, other mackerel will see all the commotion and hook themselves on the other free swimming tubes and jig. When the fish are especially thick, many times the mackerel will hit the jigs before they make it to the bottom. What this feels like is as if your line was cut and you lost the whole rig, as the lines goes almost entirely slack as the fish are running with the lures in their mouths.

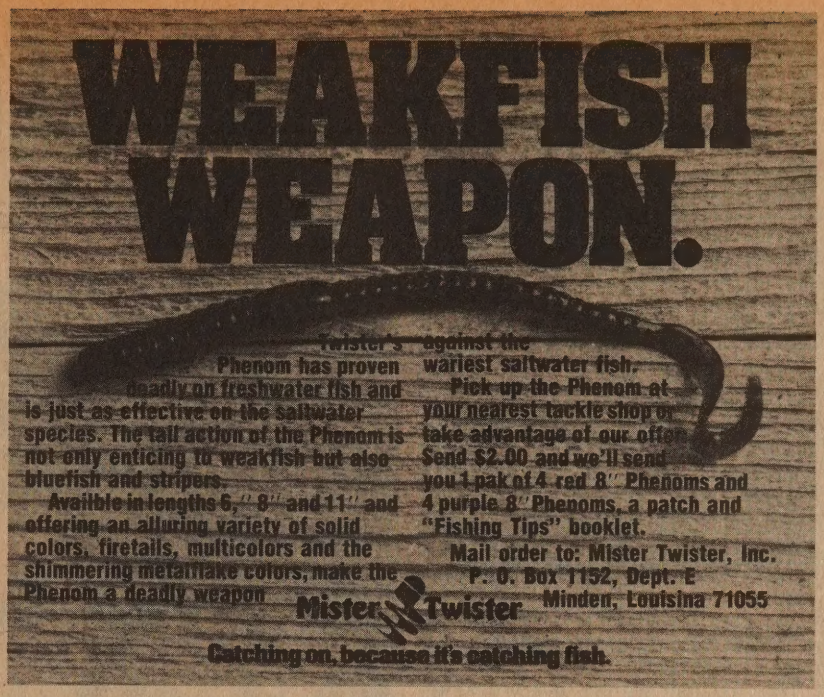
When you are out for mackerel strictly as sport, there are few fish that will put on more of a show for a fish of that size and weight. Like big tuna, mackerel must swim forever, or they will perish. When one takes a lure cast on light spinning tackle, they will make a run that is truly amazing. Admittedly, the only time that casting with spinning will be reasonably effective is when weather conditions are such that the light lure needed with the spinning rods can be worked slowly at varying depths. This means that a calm, windless day is the best time to try this out.

A light, one-handed spinning outfit with 6 lb. line is more than ample for any mackerel that you may encounter. A 3/4 oz. Hopkins jig, small bucktail lure, and even sand eel jigs in the smallest sizes will all work well. Sometimes a small Rebel plug worked just below the surface will be the ticket. When you do encounter that rare day on the ocean when the surface is slick calm, you might very well see the mackerel up on top swirling on the surface as they pursue whatever baitfish they are feeding on. It is under these circumstances that saltwater flyrodders get a chance at the fish. Usually, these flycasters find their best action up in the Sound, where the sea conditions are nowhere near as severe as in the ocean.

When mackerel show up off the South Shore beaches around the end of April, they are usually found pretty tight to the beach, in water ranging from thirty to sixty feet deep. Sometimes they can be found right in the wash along the surf, and at other times, they will be in water as deep as ninety feet. With the proliferation of the outboard fishery as a viable method of ocean fishing, there is very little chance of not finding mackerel when they are off the beach. The party boats rely heavily on the mackerel for as long as a month, and it is simply a matter of finding the party boats, before you find the mackerel. The fish school heavily, and with any sort of decent graph recorder, you should be able to mark the fish when they are under the boat. Even if you only mark a couple of slashes on the paper, it may be that the main school is not far off.

The results of heavy harvesting for many years prior to the current restrictions are still very evident in the current catches. While it is still possible to make good individual catches, the schools of fish that are coming through are fewer and much thinner than in years past. Many miles of ocean have to be scoured in order to locate the once plentiful schools of fish. In an effort to keep what schools of fish may be found close to the boat, many skippers have turned to using bunker chum as standard operating procedure in the course of the day's fishing. Again, like their bigger brothers, the mackerel are very fond of a bunker chum slick and will linger around the boat as long as a steady stream of the oily baitfish is dispensed into the water.

Last year there were schools of tinker mackerel in both the Sound and many South Shore bays for the first time in many years giving evidence that there is a fairly large stock of juvenile fish which should contribute to a healthier stock in the future. In light of what has been happening to the fishery in general for the past few years, this is certainly a most welcome indication of a continued viable fishery for this very important bait and food fish.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FORGET THE FLOWERS

by Andy Regina

One of the oldest myths that has persisted among anglers is that old saw about certain species of fish not biting until some particular foliage sprouts in the spring. I'm fairly certain that each of you has heard one of those old axioms at one time or another, but on the chance that some of you newcomers have not, or mayhap that some of you vets have forgotten, I'll re-hash a few for you now. I know for a fact that I have heard the following for years (many more than I care to remember); and when I was a kid growing up in The Bronx each statement was considered as gospel fact by every fisherman I knew at that time.

The first fish we see every spring are those funny looking flatfish known as the winter flounder. For years, I honestly believed that they were not present in any numbers worth fishing for until a certain bright yellow flowering shrub erupted into golden splashes of sunshine all over the landscape. Now, these shrubs blossom out in April, either in the beginning of that month or towards the end of it, depending upon the severity of the past winter and the air temperature at the time. The Sound could have been wall-to-wall flounder from half past February, but we never knew it because we were waiting for the lousy Forsythia to bloom—and probably missed out on some good early flounder fishing because of it.

We had a saying about blackfish too, tying their appearance in with the blossoming of the dogwood tree—thereby also probably missing out on some early dynamite fishing again. Here, though, when those snowy-white blossoms decorated every front yard, we played it a little smarter, or so we thought at the time, and always waited until the blossoms started to fall from their branches before we instituted our first tautog foray of the year. This worked better than the flounder theory though, because if any particular winter or spring ran unusually cold, the waters of the Sound remained colder longer, thereby giving you some leeway until the water warmed up enough to entice the blackfish inshore. Of course, by the same token, if the past winter or current spring was mild, then you lost out on a couple of weeks of good fishing again; but at least it worked half the time and your odds were twice as good as those you got for flounder.

The last fable I am going to bore you with is the one about weakfish. That one said that the time to go for weakfish was when the Lilacs were in bloom. Now, that may or may not have worked out in Peconic Bay, where the weakfish run is generally in full force in May, the time that local Lilac bushes sprout their purple flowers, but it never held true for me in the western Sound. Here we get our weakies later in the summer, usually about late June or July, so fishing for them early in May was always a waste of time and effort.

Waiting for the dogwoods to blossom might mean missing out on some fine blackfishing.

It's obvious that the old-timers had no positive method of proving their theories, or else they would not have held up for so long—as they eventually did—until we learned to equate fish migrations with water temperatures instead of the prevailing air temperature revealed by the growth of plants. Realizing that water temperture is perhaps the most important factor governing fish migrations, today we are better able to zero-in on the species of our choice simply by reading the water temperature of any body of water we are attempting to fish. The freshwater boys knew this long before we took advantage of it, going so far as to select the proper feeding level of their fish by reading the temperature of different stratas of water.

Sometimes the proper water temperature coincides closely to existing air temperatures, and it is at these rare times that the old sayings hold true, but you are still better off with a thermometer to take the guesswork out of fishing. Surprisingly enough, if you keep a fishing log you can determine proper fishing dates almost to a T. When Captain Bud Dorman ran his "Viking Skipper" out of Point Lookout many years ago, he used to mail his steady customers a postcard guaranteeing mackerel by a certain date. If he was wrong, he further guaranteed a two dollar refund, but in all the years I sailed with him, I never got any money back from him whatsoever. Of course, he had his past fishing logs going for him and was able to pinpoint the starting date almost exactly from year to year, so his refund offer was a safe bet for him to make.

All this talk of tempertures and flowers and fish migrations doesn't mean a thing if you are a party boat buff, where it is simply a matter of boarding the boat of your choice and letting the skipper take you out for whatever fish are running at that moment. Where all the brainwork comes in is when you have your own boat or fish from the beach; guessing right is tough enough with a boat, but it is critical if you are a beach rat, and once again, the best tool you can have is your own personal fishing log. To go by memory alone is haphazard at best and your own recorded data will never fail you, no matter how old it gets.

Being a lazy guy by nature, and a lousy bookkeeper to boot, I never bothered to keep my own personal fishing log, relying on what I thought was an infallible memory to put me in the right place at the right time as far as fishing was concerned. After many unproductive trips, and especially

after seeing other fishermen that my inflated ego considered as being inferior to my own superior talent consistently outscore me, I started keeping written records. Short, terse, and usually illegible, the important data nevertheless served to make my efforts more rewarding, and a pen and small notebook now always accompany me on each and every trip.

Nothing elaborate at the onset, my early records showed the date, time of day (or night), tide stage, moon phase, air temperature, wind velocity and direction, species caught and, of course, the location. Additional information was later found necessary, so to my list I added water condition (surf condition if it was from a beach), amount of fish caught as well as the amount actually kept, size and weight of largest fish, weather condition, and successful baits or lures. If lures were used, I then listed sizes and colors as well, with a mention of the retrieve that scored best. Within two years, set patterns appeared, and after that it was just a matter of referring to the log and being fairly certain of repeating past successes. Naturally, the bad trips were also recorded as they occurred, but by comparing them against the good trips you could learn what to avoid on your next venture. I believe that this dedication is what separates the pros from the amateurs. At any rate, you can improve your odds if you know everything you can that will help to put fish in your bucket.

Pete Anderson listened to my rambling as we headed east into the Sound. The affable young skipper of the North Star, that City Island-based party boat, chuckled over my stories about the flowers and agreed with me about the importance of keeping a log. His own logs were much more elaborate and detailed, but that is understandable because he has a business to run, and his livelihood depends on his ability to keep his passengers happy. Happy passengers on a party boat are people who catch fish, which is why they go on that boat in the first place, and you can spot the better skippers by the crowds they carry. As most captains rely on a following of steady customers, the regulars aboard any boat will swear that "their" skipper is the best in the business, and keep coming back like clockwork.

We were headed towards Lloyd's Neck, where the boys had been having modest success with some nice flounder and, recently, with some even nicer blackfish. We were at that point in springtime that saw the Sound host both species, and as we neared the beautiful beaches off Lloyd's, I left the wheelhouse and clambered down on deck, eager to be ready with both fishing rod and camera as soon as we started fishing. As the mates set the anchor, I checked my rig before baiting up with fat, juicy sandworms; Eddie had rigged my line with tandem bottom hooks, but instead of the usual Chestertown hooks we had been using for flounder earlier, he now used long shank Beak style hooks—heavier gauged, to stand up to the tough blackfish.

The bait used for both species was sand worms. There was no hard stuff usually associated with blackfish, no fiddler crabs and no green crabs, which would come into their own later in the season. Prime flounder bait, sand worms are equally relished by blackfish, and by using this one bait we would get the benefit of both worlds while losing out on neither. Here, again, we must explode another time-honored myth: for years it was believed that blackfish have tender mouths in the spring, thus would only accept soft baits such as worms or clams. Don't you believe it! Blacks will take crabs early in the season, but because they love worms and because the Sound is still fairly bereft of bergalls, we use worms and do a good job. Later on, we are forced to switch to hard baits because of the proliferation of bergalls—a simple matter of economics that would see worm-baited hooks stripped bare by those bandits in a matter of seconds. The crabs stand up a lot longer, thereby giving interested blackfish some chance at your bait.

We caught fish that day, a lot of fish: nice fat flounder and spunky blackfish that hit hard and battled strong, which makes them such a popular fish in the first place. The flaky white meat that each sizeable blackfish offers in abundance is another reason for their popularity. By fishing sandy beaches strewn with rocky patches, we touched all the bases, as flounder love a soft bottom and blackfish are partial to rocky structure. The choice was left up to the individual: if you wanted flounder you had to bounce that sinker off the bottom a few times, raising puffs of mud that would attract hungry flounder seeking unearthed tidbits, which hopefully would be your worm-baited hooks. Blackfish, on the other hand, preferred larger baits and liked them laying on the bottom nice and quiet. Looking around, you could spot the pool-seeking sharpies loading their hooks with whole sand worms and fishing steady sticks, while the fillet lovers like myself put on smaller pieces of worm and kept up a steady tattoo on the bottom.

Flounder bites were registered as you lifted the rod slowly, and the hooks were set with a slight increase in the rate of lift, while the blackfish could sorely tax an impatient angler. Starting out at times as slight pecks, to strike at such tentative blackfish bites will almost always result in taking the bait away from the fish before it has taken it completely into its mouth. Seasoned tautog fishermen wait for that sharp tug that signals that the fish has really taken the bait, then strike hard with a sharp thrust of the rod to set the hook solidly into the tough bone and gristle that blackfish

(Continued on page 50.)

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ON THE MARKET:

SPINNING TACKLE

Part Two — *by Al Ristori*

Shimano is becoming an ever bigger factor in the reel business. The cosmetics of their reel are hard to beat, and they function every bit as well as they look! In the new MLX series, Shimano has one of the most unique new features: the Fast Cast bail trigger. With the self-centering bail, the angler turns the handle backwards to put the bail in proper casting position. Then all he has to do is reach down with the forefinger of his casting hand, pick up the line, and squeeze the bail trigger—all in one motion. The bail opens and the cast is made in standard fashion. There are just two models in this line: the MLX-200 (180 yds. of 6 lb.) and MLX-300 (215 yds. of 10 lb.). Shimano also has another new skirted spool series. The six models in the MLZ line feature ball bearings, a handle that folds against the body by just pressing a button, and internal trip (except on the heavy duty MLZ-60). Still in the Shimano line is last year's featured Bass One, a high speed (5.25:1) beautifully designed reel intended for the largemouth bass angler. I used it for that purpose, and also for weakfishing, last year and was very impressed with its silent, trouble-free performance.

Quick still has its West German-made Champion (internal trip skirted spool) and Finessa (internal spool) series, plus an increasing line of Oriental models. The new gold XE series features five models with internal bail trip, aluminum skirted spools, and main shaft ball bearings. Pflueger has a new Medalist skirted-spool series which fits in below their XL line. The new reels feature internal trip, ball bearing, ceramic roller, and high speed retrieve.

Ryobi has the new MX series, but it's a lower-priced line of three skirted-spool, internal trip models with a ball bearing. The Dyna Fight Series remains at the top-of-the-line. Those unique reels have a no-line-twist feature in which the bail arm rotates (instead of the spool) as the fish takes line. This year a "Retrieve Power Booster" has been added to provide additional retrieve power at minimum drag settings. Also new is the GX 60, a medium/heavy (260 yds. of 25 lb.) addition to the Majestic GX series. The other companies in the field are more or less standing pat this year. Browning, in its second year as the U.S. distributor of Mitchell reels, had added the 4410 ultra-light to the unique 4400 skirted spool series with the upswept head angle. That feature is intended to provide a smooth line flow through the guides. The 4400 series also features internal bail trip, pushbutton spool, high gear ratios, and silent anti-reverse. Browning has also brought back two old Mitchell models that surf anglers may be interested in. The internal spool 488 and skirted spool 496 have ball bearings, a ferodo drag, and are corrosion proof. Abu-Garcia is still promoting their fine skirted spool Cardinals, but they've also added the new 9200 heavy duty skirted spool model to their Oriental line. Penn is staying with their 1980 line, but the standard sized internal trip 450SS is actually just coming on the market. I really don't care for external trips, but have to admit that no reel has ever stood up better under the abuse I apply than the Penn 750SS. Olympic has changed their LG-Auto series from black to silver and has added a big new model: the LG-Auto 950. The standard sized 131 has been added to the VO-Auto line.

There are literally thousands of fiberglass spinning rods of every length and action on the market at present, plus well over 100 graphite models and many more containing various mixtures of the two materials. On top of that, there's a whole new group of rods utilizing the latest "wonder" material, boron, in combination with graphite or graphite and glass. The choice is overwhelming, but the angler never had it so good. As this article is rather long, we'll hold off discussing the merits of the various materials until we get into baitcasting and fly tackle—the areas in which the "exotics" find the greatest acceptance.

Daiwa is pushing the new Prolite graphite composite series. There are

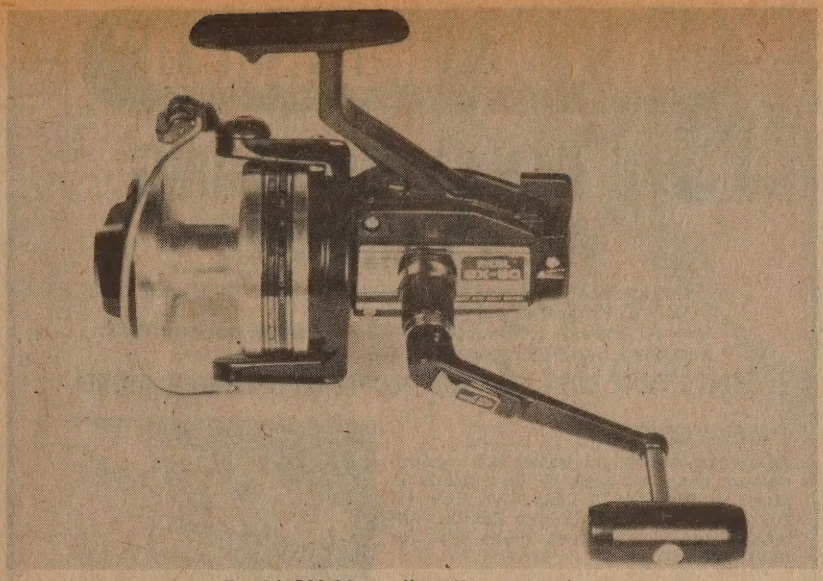
New Shimano MLX with Fast Cast bail trigger.

six standard spinning rods from five to seven feet and two bass action models, all of which can retail under $40—very inexpensive for top-quality graphite composite rods. In addition, there are three one-piece boat and jetty rods of 6½', 7' and 7½'. These models feature Dynaflo guides and a dura-cork-and-aluminum locking handle and reel seat combination that keeps fingers warmer in cold weather. Daiwa also has the Procaster graphite series with similar features, while the VIP series tops the extensive fiberglass line. New VIP models include the 7410 and 7411 (5½ and 5-2/3 ft.) medium/heavy one-piece bass spinning rods. Saltwater anglers will find many good choices in the Surf Spin, Sealine, and T.T.W. series.

The Sigma excitement at Shakespeare also includes rods. There are six spinning models in the Sigma 1000 series graphites, and a more extensive line of Sigma 1600 fiberglass models. The saltwater Sigma 1400 series includes models of 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13 ft. All are two-piece with glass-to-glass ferrule, stainless steel guides, and aluminum oxide tiptop. The gathering guide folds for traveling convenience. Shakespeare also has some "exotic" freshwater models in the Graflon (boron and graphite) and Graphmaster series, but the real backbone of the Shakespeare line is the Ugly Stik. There have been some cosmetic changes in this series, but the powerful combination of glass and graphite with continuous butt-to-tip boron filaments is still backed by a unique thirty day/five year limited warranty that's hard to beat. The saltwater Ugly Stiks have rod blanks that extend right through the foam handle for even greater strength, but don't include the boron. Among the models to check out here are the BWS 1101, six foot heavy-action musky rod (good for jigging) and the seven foot BWS 1102—ideal for turning the heads of big blues. Other new rod series this year are the fiberglass Alpha and Black Stik—both at economy prices.

Fenwick has a very extensive line of graphite and fiberglass rods. New this year are the Pacifstiks which, while designed for West Coast offshore fishing, could well prove practical in local waters. The three spinning models are all seven footers and designed to provide both power and a light enough tip with which to cast small live baits. The new Blackhawk graphites incorporate "universal" actions that make them suitable for a wide variety of fishing conditions. Included are a 5¼ ft. ultra-light and a 6 ft. medium action.

Browning was the boron pioneer and, though other companies are jumping on the bandwagon, they still offer the greatest selection of boron/graphite composites. Included now are five spinning rods of 5½ to 6½ ft., plus an 8¼ ft. steelhead model. These borons retail at over $100, but there are much more modestly priced graphite and fiberglass Browning models.



New Ryobi GX 60 medium/heavy surf reel.

New Abu-Garcia 9200 heavy-duty saltwater spinner.

Lew Childre has added a new "economy" graphite rod series (produced domestically) which includes 5½ ft. light and medium action spinning rods which should retail in the $35 area. Two new spinning rods have been added to Childre's Graph-"Fighter" economy graphite series which was introduced last year. Also new this year are 7½ ft. Dip'N Sticks in both graphite and fiberglass. These rods are designed for the bass technique known as "flipping."

Lamiglas is featuring the new Esprit Graphite series, including a couple of two-piece spinning rods of 6½ and 7 ft. Shimano has dropped their unique Kevlar/graphite rods, but has some fine graphite models and a re-designed fiberglass line. Zebco is promoting the graphite composite Formula Z series that replaces last year's Omega line. Featuring aluminum oxide guides and foam grips, these rods should retail in the $30 area. Zebco also has a new low end Sundowner fiberglass series with prices in the $15 class.

Kunnan is a young company, with an extensive line of rods made in Taiwan, that may well become a big factor in the rod business. They offer a well rounded selection of five to seven foot spinning rods in Boron Composite, Graphite, Graphite Composite, Glass, and Pro Basser glass series. Abu-Garcia has dropped their 100% graphite rods, but still have a boron/graphite/fiberglass series, along with graphite composites and many glass rods. Saltwater numbers, including surf rods, are included in the Big Blue and Gamefish fiberglass lines. Eagle Claw is using Nylock wraps, instead of conventional thread wraps, on their economy Denco Super 4 series. They've also introduced some new models in the graphite Blue Diamond series.

(Continued on next page.)

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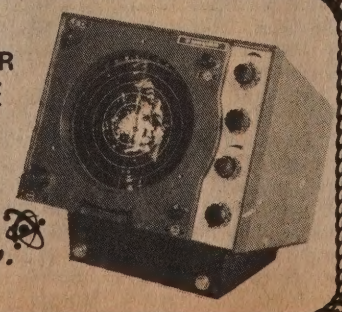

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Berkley is making a big move in rods with their Titan boron/graphite/glass composite series. Included are an ultra-light and two medium action spinning rods of 6½ and 7 ft. Skyline works only with graphite and is achieving quite a reputation in that field. Saltwater anglers may want to check out their 5-3/4 ft. SKS 5914 musky/striper model and 7 ft. SKS 7002 Striper/Skip'n rod—both one-piece. Heddon's new MagnaGraph rods combine magnesium and graphite in a blank which they claim is both lighter and more sensitive than graphite alone. A special Striper King series is produced in magnesium glass, and that includes 6¼ and 7¼ ft. medium/heavy spinning rods. Also new this year is a two-piece 7½ ft. flipping rod in the magnesium glass MagnaRod series.

Olympic's only new series is the SSS, which replaces the Amazon line of powerful surf rods. These models range from ten to fifteen feet. The 13 and 15 footers are three piece and, along with the 12 footer, have a folding gathering guide for traveling convenience. Price-wise, the SSS rods are actually slightly cheaper than their predecessors. Pflueger is making a big move with the boron/graphite composite Supreme series. There are four spinning models from 5 to 6½ ft. that should retail in the $60 to $70 range. St. Croix is resisting the trend to overseas manufacture of rods, and is proud to emphasize that all of their products are entirely American made. Topping the new items is the Graph-X graphite composite series, St. Croix' first venture into "exotic" rod materials. Prices should be in the $40 area. The All Star Striper series features the 8 ft. 8801 schoolie rod, plus a 9 footer, a 13-ft. three piece surf stick, and a 6-3/4 ft. solid boat spinning rod. Lake King is doing a big job with their boron composite spinning rods, plus a larger selection of graphite models.

In the specialized area of pack and telescopic rods, Eagle Claw leads the way. Their fine Trailmaster pack rods carry an unbeatable, unconditional lifetime warranty. Fenwick dropped its one graphite pack rod, but has both spin and spin/fly combo pack models in the Voyageur glass series. Shakespeare has a spin/fly Ugly Stik pack rod (four-piece), but is also introducing a quality telescopic in the Sigma Jet Set SPS 1110-185—a six footer that reduces to 16". That model even has quality aluminum oxide guides. In addition to other light telescopics in the Telespin series, Shakespeare is featuring the Telesea saltwater models. These start with a 6 ft. boat rod and include models of 7, 8, 9, 9½, 10, and 11' 8". All telescope to a carrying length of just 32 to 36 inches! Daiwa has the new 7052 6½ ft. six piece spin/fly rod in the VIP series, and Berkley has introduced the new Sidekick series of four-piece rods. Pflueger has a new line of telescopics ranging from 6' 2" to 10' 8".

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
COD

Charter boat **King Wayne** called to report super super codfishing. Friday's charter Walter Loginski of Seaford and ten friends managed 150 cod up to 20 lbs. including several double headers. Low man had 9 cod and hi hook was 17 fish. All cod were in the teens. Saturday's trip for Reelers Fishing Club banged a way with 102 cod from 4 to 20 lbs. including several doubles. They also had several snowshoe flounders up to 4 lbs. 8 ozs. Sunday's trip for the Tinker Fishing Club scored with 56 cod from 5 to 20 lbs. Twenty four big flounder were taken from 2 to 4½ lbs. This was all at Block Island's hooter buoy, all on clam.

Sailing aboard Capt Frank Braddock's Hurry Up, Robert Shane of Shane's Marine along with 4 pals on Wednesday loaded up with 48 cod from 3 to 15 lbs. fishing Block Island and SW Ledge. This was all on bait. With Bob were Tom Roland, Dick Willi and Rick Willi.

Capt Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** called to report a super Friday of codfishing for Otto Muller and group. They scored with 106 cod at the Hooter Buoy and outside SW Ledge with cod running from 3 to 15 lbs. This looks like the best codfishing in years says Mike. All on bait. Snows and big blacks mixed in. Wow. Saturday's charter for John Shipman and group from Jamaica pulled 96 cod. Mike says it looks like some run, best in atleast 6 yrs.

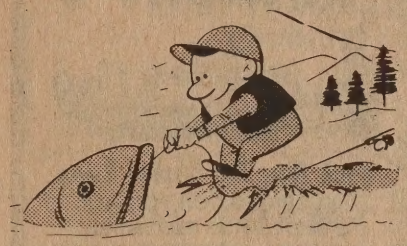
Capt Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** says that the last four days have been red hot for cod with catches averaging 15 to 20 cod per man. This was all at SW Ledge on bait. Fish are running from 7 to 10 lbs. Friday saw 9 yr. old Richie Rade, Jr. reel in a 39 lb. cod. Friday's pool winner was Omar Isarach of Manhattan with a 45 lb. cod. On Sunday 8 snowshoes were caught and 5 on Friday running from 4 to 6 lbs. The spring run has started, said the skipper and he expects pollack to arrive any day also.

Henry Colombi of **Star Island Yacht Club** says the Hooter buoy at Block Island has been producing good codfish catches. The Lori J had 68 cod on Friday. The Seaford II jigged cod successfully and the Hawk's Nest bailed 58 cod in just 4 hrs.

West Lake Fishing Lodge reports that the charter boat **My Mate** will be in the water for May charters, with Capt Joe McBride doing the honors. The Wee-Mac had 24 cod up to 20 lbs. plus a 3½ lb. flounder at SW Ledge, with Capt McAllister at the wheel. The boat Hi Energy with Capt. Charlie Murphy had 5 cod up to 10 lbs. at SW Ledge.

Charter boat **Adios** skipper Capt Phil Lewis says the codfishing is excellent. Mr. and Mrs. Jake Curuso of Closter NJ with friend Ed Lodgrin bagged 59 cod in 4 hrs. Kay got more than the men bringing in over 40 fish herself. Phil says if your interested in a cod charter, now is the time.

Capt Paul Forsberg, Jr. of the **Viking Star** tells of excellent codfishing now at Block Island on both bait and jigs, fish running from 10 to 50 lbs. John and Matthew Viol of the Bronx accounted for 14 cod from 20 to 42 lbs. on Sunday.



SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SHINNECOCK

The **Capt Clark II** reports excellent flounder fishing during the early part of the week. Despite high winds, fares got 1½ to 2 lb. class fish in good numbers. Friday Al Clausen of Northport had 23 flounders and took the pool with a 2 pounder. On Sunday Marion and Jim Murphy of Smithtown had 34 flatties between them. A combo of mussels or clams/sand worms has been working best. The boat is fishing south Jamesport and Mattituck areas in Peconic Bay. The skipper reminds you that he is now located at the SE side of the Montauk Bridge on Shinnecock Canal.

MORICHES BAY

Nick of **Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station** said that flounder action improved over the weekend after the cold snap of mid-week. Catches averaged 30 to 35 fish per boat, with the top catch for the weekend being 70 flatties. Most of the fishing was concentrated in the buoys 27, 29 area and the fish being taken are good sized with 2 lbers. not rare. Chumming is a must and either mussels, corn or clam have all been effective. On Sunday, Bernie Horan, Bob Biliski and his son Bob, Jr., all of Astoria,

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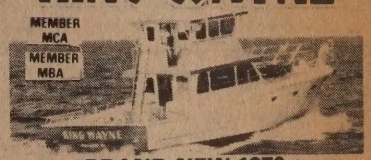

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returned with a catch of 35 flounder up to 2 lbs.

From **Skidmore's Fishing Station** Jim reported that Saturday's fishing was good, with the quality of the fish excellent and catches averaging 30 to 40 fish per boat. He described Sunday, with catches running from 40 to 70 fish as very good. On Sunday, Ben Horne, Hector Llanos, Leo Morales and Angelo Perez totalled 64 flatties. Also Sunday, Al Castellano and Hank Schlanger put away 53 flounder. Worms and mussel chum have been the best combination, with nearly all of the action concentrated in an area to the northeast of buoy 42. Best tide has been last of outgoing and first of incoming.

Gary from **Silly Lily Fishing Station** complained that Saturday's weather hindered the efforts of most anglers. On Sunday, with more cooperative weather, catches ranged anywhere from 20 to 60 fish per boat. Best fishing was found in the buoy 41 area, with bloodworms and mussel chum yielding the best catches. Ed Ditolla and his sons Kevin and Eddie took 60 fish, most from 1 to 1½ lbs. at buoy 41 on Sunday.

From **Sea Tuck Cove Fishing Station**, Joe reported a very good weekend of flounder action northeast of buoy 42. Both blood and sand worms took fish and mussel chum was necessary for the better catches. Joe figured the average catch per boat was in the 35 fish range, with flatties ranging from 3/4 to 1½ lbs. Incoming tide produced the best action this week. Joe added that the potential for some really super fishing exists, if we could just get a few days of calm weather.

The charter boat **Seamist** reports that mackerel are in good supply in 50' of water south of Fire Island over the weekend and were still in 80' of water south of Moriches. Captain Fred expects that by next weekend, a good body of fish should be camped outside of Moriches Inlet. He asked us to relay word to customers that this season he will be sailing from Shoreline Marina and he will be running special mackerel charters. In addition, he will offer 6-man split charters for those looking to cash in on the upcoming mackerel run.

HAMPTON BAYS

Altenkirch Bait and Tackle reported some flounder being taken at the Basket area and Heady Creek. Those being taken are all big with fish in the 1 to 1½ lb. class about average. A smattering of mackerel outside the inlet and also in Jessup's and this fishing should develop into something solid very shortly. No weaks confirmed from the Canal, but they are overdue and the fishing should break open any day now. One boatman fishing for flounder in the bay told of dropping a nice weak at the boat.

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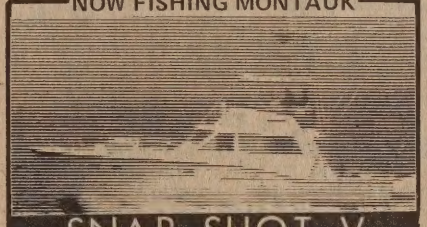
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GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MASTIC BEACH

Reporting from **Capt. Andy's Fishing Station**, Harry described the flounder fishing between Smith Point bridge and buoy 23 as pretty fair. Catches range 25 to 40 fish in the 3/4 to ½ lb. range per boat. Harry looks for weaks to show in this area in the next week or so.

OAKDALE

John at **J&R Sport Shop** described the flounder action in the bay as just fair with the fishing scattered all over the bay. He noted that wind has been the biggest detriment to the fishing. Loads of big mackerel outside of Fire Island Inlet on Sunday in 50' of water an the only weakfish news has been unsubstantiated rumors although John expects to see his first catch before the week is up. For freshwater fans, trout action in the Connetquot River and Mill Pond has been decent while fly casters have been enjoying some good fishing in the park section of the Connectquot river.

EAST ISLIP

Irene of **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** reported a slow week on flounder throughout much of the bay. Wind and cold hurt the fishing during much of the week. Glen Lyres is the current leader in the shop flounder contest with a 1 lb. 11 oz. flattie. Anyone interested in some white perch should know that a few of these scrappers were taken by customers in the back of the Connetquot River over the weekend. Irene too is waiting for her first confirmed weakfish report. Biggest fish weighed in this past weekend was from Montauk where Vic Zaghorski took a 37 lb. cod.

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil Delanoy of the open boat **Casey Lee** reported fares have been averaging 5 to 10 flounder a man, but the size of the fish has been excellent. Nearly all of the fish run from 3/4 on up to 1½ lbs. and it usually takes a 2 lber. to settle the pool. The skipper has been working the Bay Shore flats and the Sore Thumb area. He will begin sailing for weakfish on Friday, May 8 at 4PM and will be making daily runs from that day on.

Linda reported from **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** that the big news this past week concerned a 7¾ lb. brown trout which was taken by Bill Wonoski of West Islip on Thursday. The 26'' long trout which was Bill's first trout ever, was taken out of Bubbles Falls pool on the Connetquot River. A good body of mackerel took up residence in 60' of water west of the Inlet over the weekend to the delight the private and open boat fleet. Disappointing though was the lack of any confirmed weakfish reports. Eight-year-old Rich Miller and Al Colden journeyed east to Promised Land and returned with a nice catch of flounder up to 2 lbs.

CAPTREE

Fishing at this major port took a back seat to a couple of other noteworthy events on the weekend. The annual Blessing of the Fleet festivities drew huge crowds on Saturday, while on Sunday night, members of the Captree Boatmen's Association hosted a gala testimonial dinner for recent retired Newsday columnist Frank Keating at Colonie Hill. As for the fishing, mackerel exploded outside of Fire Island Inlet on Sunday, with the heaviest concentrations of fish in 50' to 60' of water. Flounder fishing for most boats remained fair.

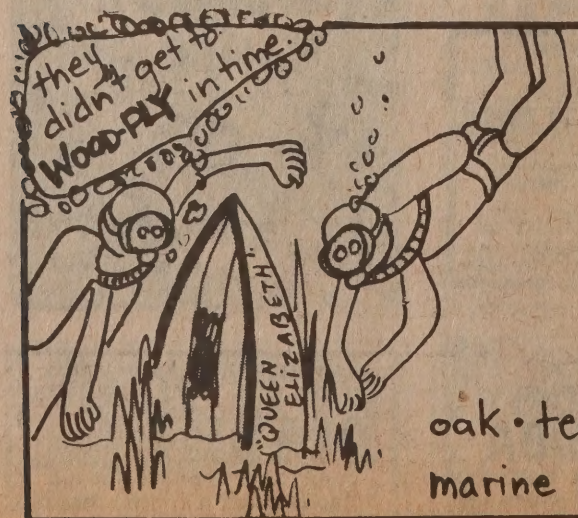
Bobby at the **Captree Bait Station** passed along results of the ongoing Natural Lite flounder derby. Sid Scharf of Hauppauge nailed down first place with a 2.3 flattie taken aboard the **Capt. Scotty**. Second place was decided by a pair of two pounders. Frank Maul of Seaford took his aboard the **Captree Queen**, while Patrick Ostuna of Flushing landed his big flattie aboard the **Capt. Ben Litwin**. According to Bobby, action on the piers has slowed. A netter stopped by the dock during the week and had a couple of cartons of school bass and weaks in his hold. The fish were netted along the beach. The first blackfish was reported by Captain Ron Peters of the **Yankee**, who had a 6½ lber. come aboard over the weekend.

The charter boat **Seabird** reported that on Sunday a six-man party headed by a Mr. Fuller had a pretty fair day fishing near the Sore Thumb. The group picked away all day with the best action occurring on the change of tide.

The open boat **Captree Queen** asked that we relay word that beginning on Saturday, May 2, the boat will be on the weakfish run. Signs are good that this fishing will open up any day now. As for flounder, Saturday was slow, while on Sunday there was some decent fishing in the inlet area.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy Fleet** reported mackerel surged into the area over the weekend and there is a good body of fish spreading from the tower to the inlet. Fair flounder fishing continues with most of the action concentrated at the inlet.

The open boat **Jib VII** asked us to note that they will begin their special 3PM weakfish trips this week. Fishing will be on a daily schedule with a strict one-side limit and free spinning



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The charter boat **Blue Albatross II** reported sacks of mackerel taken on both Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday the Maspeth Anglers Fishing Club and again on Sunday, the Hicksville Fire Department left the docks arm-weary. Fishing was done south of the inlet in 60' of water where fish up to 3 lbs. were taken. This is the first solid showing of macks in the area and the skipper expects that the main body of fish is still to come. Fishing should last for at least another few weeks.

The charter boat **Lady Ann** reported good mackerel fishing outside the inlet with a charter for the Cub Scouts on Sunday resulting in over a thousand big mackerel. Flounder fishing has been fair in the vicinity of the Sore Thumb, with fish ranging from 3/4 to 1½ lbs.

BABYLON

Bill of **Babylon Fishing Station** reported that Saturday was pretty much blown out, but action on Sunday was pretty fair. John Suss fished in the pocket behind the Thumb and returned with 20 flatties up to 2 lbs. Closer to home, Carl Soltow and Phil Sinni, both of North Babylon fished th the Babylon Cut and Fox Creek during the week and totaled 75 flatties up to 2 lbs. Teen-agers Mike McCluskey and Eddie O'Meenan fishing off of the Babylon pool in just an hour's time took a dozen flatties up to a 1¾ lbs. The fish continue to be taken on both worms and clams and chumming or stirring the bottom does help.

From **Augie's Bait and Tackle** reported the results of the Babylon Tuna Club's weekend flounder contest. First place was settled by a pair of 1 lb. 12 oz. flatties taken by Walt Krawzer and Mike Kemter. Mike fished aboard the Wammer Jammer. The crew aboard totalled over 100 flounder fishing at Squaw Island on Sunday. Also on Sunday, loads of mac kerel appeared in 50' of water south of the inlet. Action began late in the morning and continued through the afternoon. The Babylon Tuna Club Boat Miss Marion journeyed to an offshore wreck on Sunday and returned with 30 cod up to a whopping 56 lbs. 13 oz. The big cow was taken by Steve Ratner. Rumors are ripe of weaks taken in the bay but no confirmed catches to report.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS

★ BEST BET ★

FLOUNDER

LINDENHURST

Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle reported decent flounder action in East/West Channel and at Squaw Island with fish ranging from 1/2 up to 2 lbs. On Friday, Lou Florio of Copiague returned from Bubbles Falls on the Connetquot River with a 2 lb. rainbow which he took on a night crawler. Anglers fishing behind the Times Square store in Babylon have been doing a good job on white perch, using worms and small killies.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle said of the local flounder fishing that in

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terms of quality, the fishing is the best in years. Sandworms and mussel or clam chum has been the ticket to good scores at West Island, Squaw Island, the State Channel at Gilgo, East/West Channel and Great Island Channel. Chuck Radl team with John of the Glen Cove Sport Shop over the weekend to take 40 nice flounder in the 3/4 to 2 lb. range. They fished at Gilgo in the State boat channel. A good showing of mackerel outside in 60' of water between the Fire Island light and the Jones Beach Tower. Boatmen did a job on the fish during the day on Sunday. Only weakfish news has been in the form of rumors, although gill netters have taken some of the newly arrived yellowfins. Netters have also been taking good numbers of school bass along the outer beaches. George reminded that he will have green crabs in stock this week and he will try to have grass shrimp. If not by this weekend, then by the following.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser of **Wanser Bait & Tackle** said that wind hurt the flatfishing during the week, but there are still plenty of flounder around. Massapequa Cove has been especially productive as well as producing larger fish. Good fishing also at West Island, Squaw Island, Zachs Bay and the 3rd bridge. Chumming is a must and both blood and sand worms have been effective. A lot of people have been in to the shop buying mackerel rigs and word has it that there was good action on Sunday in 50' to 60' of water with the finest kind of Bostons. No word on weaks but no one has really been trying.

John of **Pop's Fishing Station** also complained about the windy weather which has characterized much of the spring thus far. While he described Saturday's flatfishing as poor, Sunday's action was much improved with everyone taking fish. Best fishing was on the east side of Massapequa Cove and also on the west side of the 2nd Wantagh bridge. Sunday's best catch was made in the latter location by Nancy Kulikowski, Dennis Hunenik, and Bill Gusterson. The trio totalled 67 flatties up to 2½ lbs., with many in the 1 to 1½ lb. class. They used heavy clam chum and worms. John added that divers involved with Wantagh bridge repairs have been complaining of swarms of blackfish interfering with their work around the abutments of the bridges.

Capt Brian of the **Chinco** reported a good weekend, fares averaging 18 to 20 keepers. Better anglers had from 22 to 28 fish. Blood worms worked best along with mussel chum on a

dropping tide. Lots of good bodies of fish around and good weather can spell super catches. Fish this week were a little smaller, namely ½ to 1½ lbs. The boat has been fishing between the 1st and 2nd Wantagh Bridges. Quantity is a little better now.

BELLMORE

Merrick Tackle reports that Merrick Bay has produced flounders all this past week, better when conditions were more for giving. Some weakfish in the poundnets but no hook and line catches as of yet.

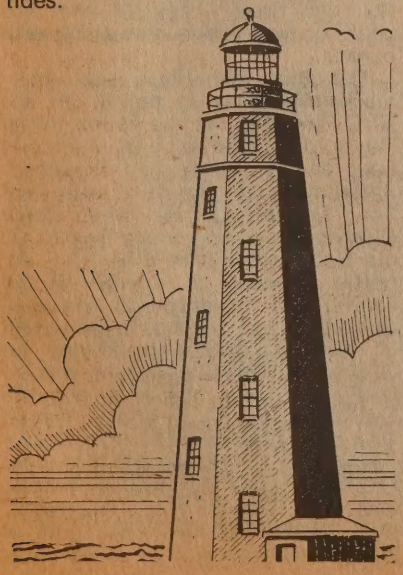
MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reports that the flounder action was sort of picky up to Sunday afternoon at which time catches exploded. The 2 boats that were out, 1 in rowboat alley and 1 at the S turn, had 52 and 48 good keepers respectively from ¾ to 1¼ lbs. This was on worm, clam and mussel bait with plenty of chum. No fluke or blackfish yet.

BALDWIN

Jack at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** tells of a very good Sunday with lots of flounders from 1 to 1½ lbs. Middle Bay at Boces, Scow Creek, and the Golf Course, Baldwin Bay, and Cinder Creek, all yielded flounders Wednesday through Sunday on worms, mussels and plenty of chum. A couple of blackfish were taken at the Meadowbrook Bridge up to 3 lbs. on worm.

Jan at **Thompson's Deli** reports a 2 lb. 5 oz. flounder was caught by Don Schmiemann on the boat Doo Bee Time. Fishing was good in Millburn Creek and Reynold's Channel on yellow dyed clam. This fish was taken in Reynold's near Scotty's Fishing Station. Don had 20 other fish besides this one on Saturday. Catches earlier in the week were done due to moon tides.



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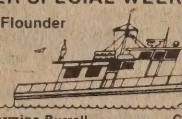

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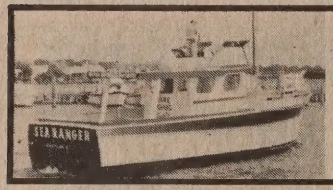

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WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★

FLOUNDER

FREEPORT

The **Capt Al** reports his passengers have been having a slaughter job on mackerel between the pipeline and the tower off Jones Beach. Sunday was even better than Saturday and even closer in. Catches are anywhere from 70 to 100 fish per man and these are big 1¾ to 3 lb. bostons. Fish are averaging 2 to 2½ lbs. It's advisable to come get your mackerel fast before they are gone as these fish do not linger.

The **Capt Bill** which was chartered Saturday and Sunday, had larger flounders Saturday at Squaw Island and smaller but more fish Sunday at the Inlet.

The **Capt Gary** on Saturday fished the American Legion post 1066 and they had fair flounder catches considerling the severity of the wind. Hi hook with 22 flatties was Jim Dickson of Seaford. The pool fish was hoisted up by Wayne Winklison of Massapequa Park, a 2 pounder. This was Reynold's Channel and Garrett's Lead. Sunday's charter for Herder Lodge, Whitestone, fished flounder. Hi hook was Connie Siers with 28 keepers. Fred Brauner had the pool with a 2¼ pounder. Sunday they fished the same area along with west of the Long Beach trestle. Gary says he has some choice mackerel Saturday dates in May.

Sea Isle Sports tells of mackerel off the Wantagh beaches Saturday and Sunday. There was also good flounder activity from Fundy up into Merrick Bay and Scow Creek. Ronnie has heard of weakfish in nets along with bunker.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** says holy-mackerel! Friday on the **BF III** the NYC Fire Dept. of the Bronx fished Reynold's Channel and Garrett's Lead and all hands had flounders. Saturday aboard the **BF II** with Capt Tony De Lernia, they fished Eagle Electric in a strong wind. Twelve yr. old Bob Cohen took a 2 lb. 8 oz. flattie. Saturday on the **BF III** the charter for Manufacturer Hanover Bank saw pool honors go to Jack Berdi of W. Babylon. Hi hook was Ed Goodwin of Merrick. Fishing was off due to the cold, the wind and the thunder storms. They fished Reynold's Channel and east of Squaw Island. Sunday on the **BF II** skipper Charlie Adams fished locally. Hi hook was John Lawrence of Ridgewood. Pool winner was Rich Sammets of Ridgewood with a 1 lb. 8 oz. fish.

CAPTREE

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16 OPEN BOATS

FLOUNDERS IN THE BAY
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NO ENTRY FEE

20 CHARTER BOATS

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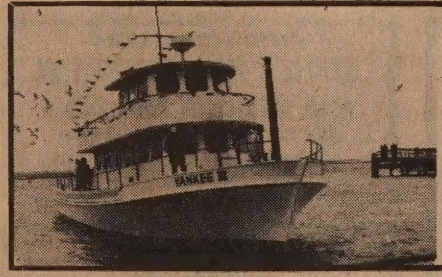

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Mussels, worms and clam all work with the help of a lot of chum. It was mackerel mackerel mackerel aboard the **BF III** Sunday, caught within ½ hr. of the jetty to the SE. Skipper Sy Karlin says the boat had over 2000 lbs of mackerel and they were back to the dock early. The fishing was fast and furious between Lulls. Frank Perrotto of Glen Head was hi hook with 70 fish. The boat has several week day mackerel dates open. See **Blue Fin Charter Service** ad for details.

Charter boat **Nan Sea** called to tell of a catch of 30 fat flatties caught Saturday in the heavy winds in Sea Dog Creek. Incoming has been best on sand worms on mussel and clam and plenty of chum. This trip was for Tom Devlin and pals of Whitestone.

The **Starstream II** has been baggng up on mackerel fishing close to home, less than 50 minutes from the dock in 50 to 60 feet of water between Jones Inlet and the tower. These are big bostons from 1 to 3 lbs. All fares caught fish on the long drifts and the catches had to be classified as excellent.

Super Spray II is now mackerel fishing and has scheduled a special cod wreck trip. See ad for details.

POINT LOOKOUT

Scotty's Fishing Station reports the best area for flounders this past week has been buoy 17, Reynold's Channel on worms, clam and mussel with plenty of chum.

Ed's Fishing Station tells us that Sunday was a busy day at the station with some boats having very good catches. Warren Jenda of Queens and 2 pals scored with 92 flounders on the Middle Bay flats. Rental skiffs averaged 2 to 3 dozen per boat. The ebb was best on worm, mussel and mussel chum. Chumming was very important. Best area was from buoy 17 to buoy 20, Reynold's Channel. Robert Shane of Shane Marine Supplies with a couple of buddies, took his boat Sea Wolf 30 miles south of Jones and loaded up with mackerel.

The charter boat **Marie III** on Monday fished a group from NYC PD in Reynold's Channel and adjoining creeks. They enjoyed a fair pick of flatties to 1 lb. Wednesday a charter for Army and Navy Personnel had a tie for the adult pool, John Contreria and Charlie Cayat. In the Junior Division Chipper Cayat and Mary Jo Meany had flounders of 1 lb. 8 oz. and 1¼ lb. respectively. Best was off the Golf Course in Reynold's Channel with mussel bait and heavy chumming necessary. Saturday's trip for the Quartermaster Division of NYCPD saw excellent flounder catches off the Golf Course in the morning and Shell Creek in the afternoon. Pool winner was Fred Jones with a 2 lb. 14 oz. flounder. Mussel and worm worked best. Sunday's trip for Mr. Matusi and group had a fair catch. Lots of drops, saw fish at each drop, up and down Reynold's Channel.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle** in Lynbrook advises that the flounder fishing has slowed down but there are still quite a few fish around. Decent weather (no wind) will increase the flounders once again. Charlie has heard of the start of some blackfish being caught at bridges and jetties.

Capt Clem of the **Commodore** tells of a very good week of flounders with the exception of Sunday which was picky. All week fares averaged 20 fish a man, all of nice size. There have been a lot of 1 to 1½ lb. fish. A lot are in the main channels but there are still a lot of fish in the back also. Catches will rebound again with some calm weather.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reports that on Sunday Mike Wallin, Pete DeRych and Jim McDonald brought in 80 flounders to 2 lbs. at the Cement Block. Three boats were rented by the Centennial Gun and Bow Club. They scored with 125 keepers from ¾ to 2 lbs. at Garrett's Lead Saturday. A few blackfish off the jetties. Some larger flounder have been caught in Deb's Inlet at the top of the tide on worm and mussel.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Al at **Reynold's Reef Fishing Station** tells of his flounder derby which was this past weekend. Winner was Harold Scheter with a 1 lb. 9 oz. fish. Second place went to Ken Kelmanson with a 1 lb. 8 oz. fish, Third Place went to Artie Valenti with a 1 lb. 8 oz. fish also. Scott Brody coped the kids division with a 1 lb. 4 oz. flounder. Al says flounder are on the move and fewer are being caught now. Its tampering off. Mackerel are 4 miles south of buoy 4 in 60' of water. Some blackfish at the Atlantic Beach Bridge.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle tells of good blackfishing off the North Channel Bridge. A lady customer took a 3 lb. 2 oz. black on clam off the North Bridge. Both bridges are working. A young customer named Tony had a 3½ lb. flounder taken off the North Channel Bridge on a blood worm. Friday through Sunday saw a lot of action. Twenty five percent of the flounders were throwbacks. Some very small stripers at the North Channel Bridge this past Friday night on worms.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt Tom on the **Pilot II** regretfully reports that the strong winds resulted in poor blackfish catches Saturday and Sunday. The murky water and the stirred up bottom just don't equate

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with good blackfish catches. However, Monday through Friday saw excellent blackfish catches at the Shrewsbury Rocks off Jersey, mainly on green crabs. Also the first sea bass of the year was caught on the boat. Tom says there are lots of blackfish in his favorite areas and they are catching them 1 to 6 lbs.

The **Elsie K III** reports a fair Saturday and a very good Sunday of flounder fishing at the Cedars in Sandy Hook. Hi hook was 45 keepers and there are lots of catches of 20 and 30 fish. The pool fish went 2 lb. 8 oz. and Capt Tom sees at least another month of good flounders. Mussel, worm and clam are all working.

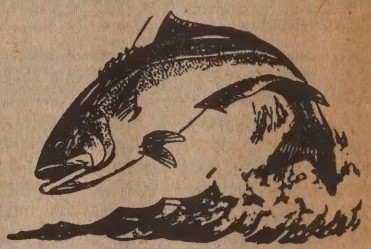
The **Flamingo III** says that the mackerel are here and fishing is definitely good. These are king size bostons to 3 lbs., but they do have their moves. Saturday's wind conditions made good drifts difficult. Customers had bags from ¼ to ¾ full. Mackerel fishing was good but not super due to the weather conditions. Sunday's action was picky and in flurries. They ran from school to school. With the right conditions, customers can bag up. This is only the start. Walt says swarms of mackerel are coming up from Jersey. Don't delay however he says, come down now because the mackerel go by this area fast.

Charlie at **Mike's Tackle** reports its all the mackerel you want. The main body was off Asbury Park Sunday and fish will be swimming north fast with a day or so of warm weather. Lots of blackfish being caught up to 7 lbs. off the Shrewsbury Rocks and wrecks.

According to the **Dorothy B's** answering machine, they will be sailing for mackerel 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday till their gone, flounders during the week.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop says that the news remains pretty much the same with piers 8, 12 and 17 of the Stapleton Piers continuing to produce well on flounders up to ¾ lbs. Half the fish are keepers. Flounders are also being caught from South Beach to Princess Bay. From South Beach to Princess Bay striper reports are scattered. Rebels and red fins are working at Great Kills Harbor and at the Bogs. Try the area off Annandale to Wolf Pond for drifting for flounder.



PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

GREENPORT

Charter boat **Blue Albatross** called to say that Saturday's trip for the Seducters Fishing Club pulled approximately 500 flounders with Henry Bell high hook with 46 fish. Jim Watson had the pool fish. Sunday's trip for the Sei-Acre Gun Club saw Greg Caccioppoli take hi hook honors incuding a 3 lb. flounder.

AP White Tackle Shop tells us that both the **Brand X** and **Peconic Star** had over 500 flounders Saturday and Sunday each fishing in the Sound at Truman's Beach, Petty's Bight and Orient Point. Truman's Beach had the biggest fish. Generally they ran 1 to 2 lbs. and hit on both tides on worm,

mussel and clam. Just fantastic flounder fishing, said Art White.

Capt Roddy DeLisle of the charter boat **Prowler II** called to say that Wednesday's trip for Bill Russell and party boated 138 flounders up to 3¼ lbs., with fish averaging 1¼ to 1½ lbs. They worked the north side of Orient Point. Hi hook was Bill Cool with 40 fish. Sunday's charter for Dr. Vincent Kaufman and wife Peggy of Merrick, totaled 106 flounder for the couple. Please note that the boat is now sailing out of Orient Point Marina this season.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** tells of very good flounder fishing just east of the Orient Point Station with boats taking over 100 keepers apiece from 1 to 2 lbs. 8 ozs. Floundering in the bay has been picky though catches have been fair at South Ferry, Long Beach and Cedar Beach. The pick has been steady but not spectacular in the bay. Petty's Bight and Truman's Beach have been outstanding. Some mackerel in the traps. No weakfish reports as yet. Some blackfish also taken in the traps. The unrelenting winds this spring have put a crimp in this past weekend's bay catches.

NEW SUFFOLK

Phil at **Capt Marty's Fishing Station** reports that some flounders have been caught this weekend at Nassau Point and South Race, fish averaging 1½ lbs. Phil says the fish have thinned out but that one boat hoisted 35 good keepers Saturday on the flood. Mussels have been working best but you have to chum heavily and use a chum pot.

MATTITUCK

Capt Jerry McGrath of the **Nostalgia II** had 3 charters this week. Wednesday's trip for Tony Halpin and sons Anthony and Kevin, resulted in 40 good keepers. Saturday's charter for Frank Guiman and Terry McGuire saw 51 flounders taken. Sunday's trip for John Woheforth and group of bakers on a half-day charter, bagged 24 flounders. All fish were 1 to 2 lbs. and the best is yet to come.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle Center tells of solid catches of flounder off Mattituck on worms, fish going to 3 lbs. A few mackerel in the bay and weaks in the traps out east.

PECONICS

Speck's Bait & Tackle reports that Shinnecock Bay just west of the Ponquogue Bridge has been productive this past week. Promised Land at the fish factory and at buoy 7 has also been good. Southampton angler Joe

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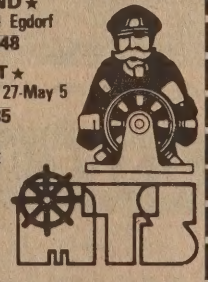
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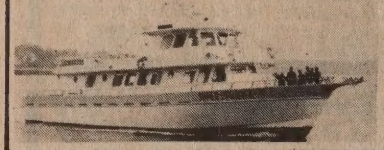

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Tagliavia took a 4 lb. 7 oz. flounder plus 41 other flatties from 2 to 4½ lbs. on mussel at Promised Land. Two memebers of Squadron anglers scored with 30 flounders in the 2 lb. range, one fish going 3¼ lbs. This was south of buoys 6 and 7 and the fish factory. Noyac Bay has produced well. No weakfish reports on rod and reel, just for gillnetters. Nets have taken weakfish up to 16 lbs. so far. Twelve yr. old Walter Nickelsen of Baldwin had flounders of 3¾ nd 3½ lbs. this week.

NOYAC

Barbara at **Noyac Marina** tells us that Ken Smith, Pete Schiano, Don Manger and Sam Summers all of Blue Cross, fished off the nets at Jessups and had approximately 50 flounders up to 2 lbs. Worm on the hook and mussel chum did the job at anchor. They also drifted off the Monastery Saturday.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Artie Lach of the **Wilhelric II** reports that Petty's Bight and Orient Point remain super. Flounder fishing has been excellent all week. Hi hooks everyday have been in the 40s. Jack Gleason and 7 pals from Amityville fished on the boat Wednesday. Jack was hi hook with 62 fish. Saturday young Jim Synertsen of Wading River scored with 51 flatties. All week there have been less than a dozen throw-backs. Sunday's fish were the biggest of the week running ¾ to 2 lbs. Saturday and Sunday saw blackfish

EDITORIAL:
Bluefish Management Plan

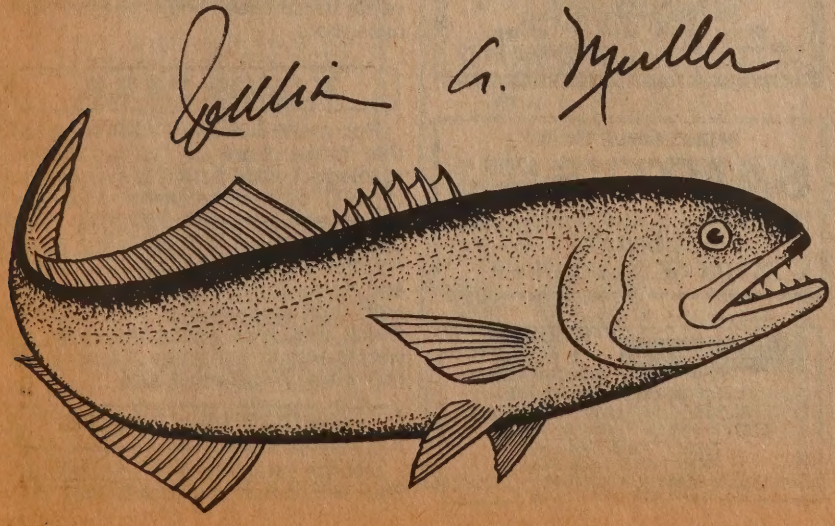
(Continued from page 4.)

line catches of bluefish and restrict commercial landings to 17% of the recreational landings from the previous fishing year or 7,000 metric tons, whichever is greater.

"This alternative based upon the assumption that the recreational fishery cannot bring the stock of bluefish in the Atlantic to a point where it could no longer sustain stable production." We agree with this analysis [Freeman, 1978; and Radovich, 1975]. We also agree that: "The commercial sector is at a point where it is likely to expand." Therefore, a quota on the commercial fishery seems to be necessary.

* * * * *

We basically agree that Alternative #4 meets the objectives set down for the plan and thus, it is the best alternative in our opinion. However, we do take some exception. The proposed 7000 mt quota for the commercial landings is excessive based upon traditional usage. Although it is true that the commercial industry will not likely reach this level for several years, the proposal violates a basic discussion point of the document to limit the expansion of the commercial fishery. If the 7000 mt allocation appears in the management plan for several years before it is reached; this might be then taken as a traditional allocation and it might then be hard to retreat. 7000 mt is equivalent to 14.58% of the total fishery and yet the 1979 figures indicate commercial landings of 11.3%. Therefore, we believe this allocation is too large and should be limited to a maximum of 5170 mt, which would be 11% of the 1979 landings. Thus we believe the plan should read "...restrict commercial landings to 11% of the total landings from the previous year or 5170 mt, whichever is greater." We believe this to be consistent with the objectives of the plan and the traditional usage of the fishery.



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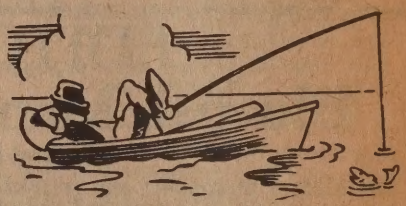
take the pools. The fish are hungry and are hitting mussel, clam and worms hard. Blacks are up to 3 lbs. On Sunday blacks went up to 6. Artie says fishing couldn't be better, really super. The bottom seems to be paved with fish.

THREE MILE HARBOR

Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station reports the flounder fishing in the harbor has been great for fish from 1 to 1½ lbs. Good quantities of fish are hitting worm bait and mussel chum is drawing the fish. Heavy on the chumming, fellas. All the skiffs were out on Sunday and all had fish. The Great Neck Sportsmens Fishing Club had 6 of the boats. Fish are on both tides though they are a little smaller this week than last week.



NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

PORT JEFFERSON

Capt John of the **Aqua-Gem** reports fair flounder catches Saturday with Sunday's activity being picky on the flatfish. John is fishing from Shoreham to Mt. Misery Shoals and other northshore hot spots. The skipper says that the demon is the weather and particularly the wind. Once a couple of days of decent weather settle in, catches should bounce back once more.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **OK Bait and Tackle** reported that mackerel are just getting started in this part of the sound but should be in solid by next weekend. Flounder continue to entertain boatmen both out in the Sound and inside the river. Pat, Jerry and Richie Koliner and Don and Kathy Curry returned on Sunday with two buckets full of flounder which they took inside the river on worms and mussel chum. Most of the fish were on the small side.

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine reported from his **Four Winds Bait and Tackle Shop** that

good flounder fishing continues out in the Sound, off of Eaton's Neck, Marshall Field and Callahan's. Fish range anywhere from 1/2 to 1¾ lbs. and are being taken on worms, mussels and clams. Mussel chum is a big asset. Mackerel have moved into the Sound and George expects that the fishing in his area should open up any day now. For casters, there were a fair number of school bass taken at night on Rebels at the Lilco outflow during the week. Members of the Huntington Anglers Club journeyed to Quincy this past weekend and returned with a load of cod, pollack, and flounder. The biggest flattie tipped the scales at 3 lbs. 5 oz. Their next Quincy trip is planned for October when flounder will be the primary target.

GLEN COVE

The **Lady Lil II** called to say that he is still flounder fishing off Lloyd's Neck. By Marshall Field and Buoy 2 his fares have been getting a few blackfish. Frank Gona took a $58 pool with a fat blackfish. The boat will be starting Friday for mackerel, running evening trips Friday and Saturday evenings at 5 p.m.

Dave at **Glen Cove Sport Shop** described the flounder action in the area as good. He named Desoris Creek, Hempstead Harbor and Prybil Pier as a few of the better producing spots. The Bayville area certainly wasn't lacking in flatfish as demonstrated by Jim Peppard and his children Jim, Mike and Marge. The quartet used sand worms and clams to take 85 flatties in the 3/4 to 1 lb. class. Dave also noted that the first blackfish was taken from the Prybil Pier this past week and this fishing should gradually improve as the weather warms. He also had it on good account that the first bass were taken in the area on Saturday and Sunday. Schoolies of 4-6 lbs. were taken by a couple of the local sharpies in Hempstead Harbor and at Matinnecock Point.

NORTH SHORE WEST END
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

CITY ISLAND

Capt Pete of the **North Star** tells of very good flounder action, with 15 to 35 keepers a man, with 2 out of 5 fish being throwbacks. A few blackfish up to 3 lbs. are being caught. Flounders are running from ½ to ¾ lbs. and the

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boat is working off Lloyd's and off Huntington. Pete says there are signs of macks. The other City Island boats, **Apache** and **Ebb Tide II** have been working the same area and catching well also.

Ebb Tide III reports catching flounders up to 1½ lbs. at Floyd's Point. Thirteen yr. old Jonathan Berke grabbed the pool Sunday with a 1½ lb. flattie. By next weekend the boat will be fishing mackerel in the Sound.

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** said that in general the flounder fishing can best be described as fair. He named Sands Point and Hart Island as two of the better bets and added that sand worms have been doing nearly all of the damage. School bass are being taken on Rebels in Eastchester Creek and along the Turtle Cove shore line, while a couple small blacks have showed up in flounder catches. This fishing should take hold in the next week or two providing the weather stays mild.

NEW ROCHELLE

Captain Pete Pearson of the **Klondike** reported decent flounder fishing most of last week though Sunday for some reason was on the slow side with mostly smaller fish. There's some mackerel around and Pete figured he should be fishing for them in about a week or so. There's a super overnight shark trip scheduled for June 8th.

New Products

COLEMAN'S NEW COLOR FOR RAM-X CANOES

Coleman Marine is offering a second color choice in its RAM-X canoes in 1981. The popular Coleman canoes will now be available in Coleman Green. This is in addition to the Colorado Red that has been the standard since the introduction three years ago.

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Hunters will appreciate the new color because it can be easily camouflaged with netting. The subtle tones of the Coleman Green will appeal to fishermen as well.

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For more information, contact Coleman Marine, 250 N. St. Francis, Wichita, Kansas 67201.

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The "Diamond Master" is available at $5.99 plus $1.85 shipping and handling exclusively from Pfeiffer's Tackle Crafters, 14303 Robcaste Road, Phoenix, Maryland 21131.

HANDBOOK FOR FLY FISHERMEN

Fly Fishing Made Easy, a 64-page illustrated handbook written especially for novice fly fishermen, is available frokm Scientific Anglers/3M.

The handbook includes a detailed guide for selecting and assembling balanced fly tackle and describes a step-by-step, field-proven method for learning fly casting. Simple language and numerous illustrations help the beginner learn this skill easily.

The booklet also describes effective fly fishing techniques for trout, bass and panfish. In addition, it provides in-depth coverage of aquatic insect life cycles and how they relate to selecting the correct fly pattern.

Copies of the handbook are available in the United States for $1.95 ($2.50 in Canada). To obtain your copy, send a check or money order to Scientific Anglers/3M, Department A, P.O. Box 33984-PR, St. Paul, MN 55133.

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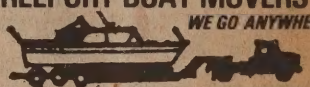

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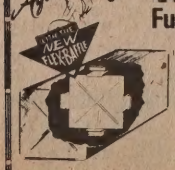

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12' through 21' aluminum skiffs & center consoles in stock for demonstration & immediate delivery. We will not be undersold. Auth. Evinrude sales & service. Financing arranged. Dave Bofill Marine, 1810 North Sea Rd., Southampton, NY. 516-283-6736.

DIESEL—DIESEL—DIESEL

Detroit Diesel; Diesel parts and equipment at the lowest prices & fastest service on the East Coast. Many small diesels also available. OLSEN DIESEL ENGINE CORP., 60 So. Montgomery Ave., Bay Shore. 516-665-5599.

1976 20' MAKO 115 Evinrude 1979 E-Z Load trailer, S/ST Top; CB, VHF, C-Temp Hailer. Si-Tex 256A and flasher. Mint condition. Many extras. Asking $7700. Call Days: 212-699-4321.

17' Fiberglass National, deep V, walk-thru windshield, 50 h.p. Merc. Certified trailer; depth finder, CB. Many extras. Mint cond. $2500. 516-589-4991.

BERTRAM 25' Sports Fisherman, Twin Merc. Cruisers 120's. Fighting chair; gin pole. Plus extras. $9500. 516-352-4745.

1981 SUZUKI OUTBOARD MOTORS: DT2-$279; 3-5-$429; 5-$519; 8-$649; 9.9-$799; 16-$869; 25M-$1099; 40M-$1399; 50E-$1895; 65E-$2195; 8501-$2695; 11501-$2995; 14001-$3295. SOUTH SHORE SUZUKI, 41 W. Sunrise Hwy., Freeport. 516-868-3111. 516-868-3694.

23' '77 Mako, 255 h.p. Merc.; 26' '77 Pacemaker FB, SF, 220 Crusader FWC; 31' '74 Bertram FB, SF T350s FWC. Loaded; 36' '74 Chris Craft FB, SF T300s FWC; 38' '73 Egg Harbor FB, SF, T330s FWC. Loaded; 40' '78 Ocean FB, SF, T GM671 diesels. Loaded. PORT YACHT SALES, INC. Offices at Capri Marina, Port Washington, N.Y. 11050; 516-883-4073 and 101 Surf Ave., Port Jefferson, N.Y.; 516-928-6840.

30' 1973 COLUMBIA Sport Fisherman. Cuddy cabin, twin 250 h.p. Palmers FWCO, tuna tower, pulpit, auto. pilot. White line recorder, fighting chair, anchor winch. Large capacity good fishing boat. $18,000. 212-984-3073.

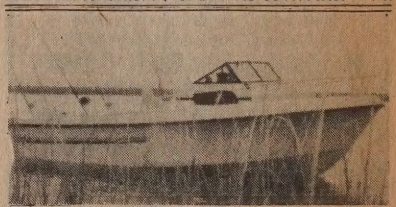
Steering mechanism with controls for large inflatable of Fiberglas boat. Excellent condition. $200. FIRM. Call PM - 212-428-5518. Leave message.

Don't buy a boat without at least sending for free details on new giant Report, ''Boat Fuel Consumption and Speeds.'' Over 140 boat/engine combinations covered. S. R. Technical Services, Inc., Box 781, Hicksville, NY 11801.

MAKO 25' 1976, 200 h.p. Johnson, SST prop, Morse controls. Ross recorder, VHF, CB, ext. speakers, 10' antennas, compass, VDO sumlog, RDF. Dytek water temperature gauge. Full canvas, cushions, bolsters, 18' Lee outriggers. Rod holders; tackle drawers, S/W washdown. Live well, anchor, head, plus many more custom accessories. Must see. Eves: 212-424-0658. Weekends: 516-477-1741.

CHRIS CRAFT 23' Corsair (Lancer) New interior and OMC 235. Spacious, fast, stable deep-Vee. 516-692-5414. $6900.

GRUMMAN Outboard Motor bracket for Canoe. Excellent condition. $15. 212-445-3041. After 7PM.



SEA-OX 20' & 23' Walkaround Cuddy. Avail. inboard or outboard; 17'-23' models avail. Center console or comm'l. Largest Sea-Ox & Phoenix dealer on L.I. Phoenix avail. in gas or diesel inboard, twin or single, or outboard. STEIN'S BOAT & MOTOR SALES, 23 River Rd., Sayville, N.Y. 516-567-3313.

1978 WELLCRAFT V-20 175 h.p. Johnson Power trim/tilt; SST. Very fast 50 mph + and very economical. Custom rigged for offshore. Dual batteries; tach., VHF radio, compass, spare prop. Lowrance depth finder with alarm. Lowrance white line chart recorder; insulated fish box with cushion. Fuel/water separator. Two bilge pumps. Extra cleats; winter canvas. $8450. 516-669-8982 Eves.

GRADY-WHITE LINE...STILL the best in the business. Factory auth. Johnson & OMC parts and repairs. Spring tune-up, moorings, storage, financing, insurance. Also, see the PRIVATEER - low cost center console for baymen and serious fishermen. Eddie's Marine, est. 1940, in Lawrence at Atlantic Beach Bridge, on Reynolds Channel. 212-327-3168.

'63 30' LUHRS Sportfisherman, 1970 220 h.p. Gray engine; rebuilt 1979. Flybridge; outriggers; gin pole; fighting chair. Full canvas, Bimini top. In water. $3200. Days: 212-756-5505. Eves: 212-763-9347.

Fishing Machine 1976 26' Pacemaker Wahoo Contour console Sport fisherman. Fast & economical 8 GPH running, 2½ GPH trolling. Twin 155 Chrysler inboards; stand-up head w/sink. Sleeps two. Fully rigged for fish; spotless. Asking $22,500. 516-668-9060 Weekends. 516-271-8227 Weekdays.

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PACER 26' Convertible Sportfisherman; F/B 190 Chrysler F/W cooled, FG decks; extras. $3800. 516-587-1249.

WANTED—Grady White 77/78 Dolphin or Marlin, with motor and trailer. Days: 515-454-8390. Nites: 516-360-9791.

30' CHRIS CRAFT SeaSkiff 2/185s. Rigged for in & offshore charters. Full electronics and equipment. Excellent condition. Price Flexible. 516-281-3121.

SHAMROCK 25' 9". Taking orders for Pilot House or Open Fisherman. Gas or diesel. Shamrock 20', all models in stock. New 1981s now in. ROVINA, 516-728-0922; 25' 9" Cuddy due in June.

1979 23' SLICKCRAFT Inboard/Outboard; 228 Mercury. Extras; deep-V hull. Excellent condition. Asking $12,500. 516-725-0937.

BLACK FIN 25 Fish Mach. 200 hrs. total time, 3208 Cat. Tunatower, Rybovich outriggers, dual stations. Trim tabs, swim plat., teak pulpit, Loran C. VHF, Ross 500 recorder & much more. $64,000 replac. value. $49,000. wkday, eves. 212-697-2378; wkends, 516-749-0501.

1967 CHRIS CRAFT COMMANDER 27' Allglass FB, fighting chairs; 2 depth recorders. Counter stove, bunks, CB, auto. anchor winch. New 350 Chris Craft FWC. $10,800. 212-539-4743.

1969 Mercury 1250. Disassembled; have parts. Will sell—all or pieces. Call Ed, evenings. 212-672-5971.

BOSTON WHALER—Sterndrive 19' Revenge 75 Merc. 165 I/O. Fuel efficiency, roomy cockpit; bow sleep area. Unsinkable, trailable, well equipt beauty. Best offer. See it at Richmond Marina, Edgewater, N.J. 201-224-5766.

MANATEE '77 19' Bowrider, '77 Merc. 70 h.p.; CG Equip. Trailer. $4100. 931-8731.

1976 TOPAZ Cuddy 28'. Twin Mercruiser inboards, FWC. Low hours; new condition. Days: 212-454-8200; Eves: 212-969-2424.

25' SURFHUNTER Fisherman, Charter, 235 OMC I/O, 6½ GPH at 18 kts. White line, VHF, CB. Ready for fishing. Many extras. Cape Cod. 617-362-2228.

1981 MERC. MARINER OUTBOARDS. 1981 Quicksilver accessories also available. 2-$269; 4-$430; 5-$525; 8-$615; 9.9-$785; 15-$785; 15-$865; 25-$1055; 30-$1125; 40-$1240; 50-$1670; 60-$1985; 70-$2100; 80-$2305; 90-$2450; 115-$2590; 150-$3295; 175-$3495; 200-$3575. FOB Shipping arranged. SPORTS MARINE, 201-736-3909 Essex Co., NJ or 201-584-2496 Morris Co., NJ.

Pair 1977 255 h.p. Mercruisers, FWC, short blocks with heads, $500 pair. Penn 16/0 with Dacron $100. Fenwick 80 lb., 50 lb. Make offer. All excellent. 929-4881 or 929-8285.

Hydra-Sports—the Kevlar difference; 18' through 24' consoles and cuddies in stock for demonstrations. Auth. Evinrude sales & service. Custom rigging. Financing. DAVE BOFILL MARINE, 1810 North Sea Rd., Southampton, NY. 516-283-6736.

19' ANGLER Center Console 1976/1977 w/1978 140 h.p. Mercury outboard. Fast, economical fishing machine. Low hours. Mint condition. Reasonable. $4395. 516-546-4186 Eves.

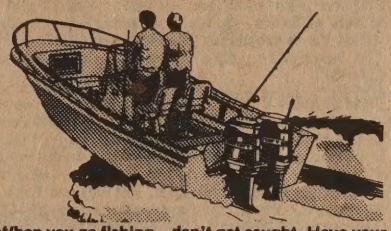
OLD TOWN 18' Guide Model Canoe. Clear Fiberglas over cedar planking. Excellent condition. Two spruce paddles included. $400. 212-445-3041. After 7PM.

CRESTLINER 14' F/G, canvas, 55 h.p. Johnson. Trailer; extras. Asking $2000. Call after 6PM: 212-848-5177.

1975 WELLCRAFT 20' Cuddy Cabin, 165 Merc. I/O dual batteries. Two 20-gal. built-in tanks; VHF & Rec.; CG pkg., mooring anchor. Immaculate fishing machine. 516-628-2322.

Inboard engines: new; used; rebuilt. Mobile service to your boat. LAWRENCE B. FELS, 24 hr. phone 516-766-4345.

23' SEACRAFT Sportfisherman, 1972; 225 I/O. Excellent condition. Many extras. $10,500. 516-765-2165.



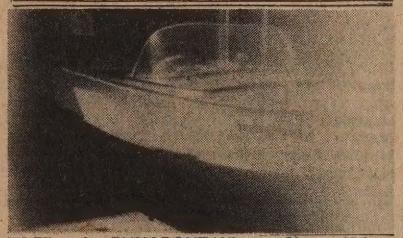
When you go fishing—don't get caught. Have your outboard serviced by CONTENDER MARINE. Your full line Dealer for Mercury. Contender Marine, 8 Vernon Valley Rd., E. Northport, NY 11731. 516-261-8695.

1971 18' Winner & 60 h.p. Johnson. Excellent condition. Eves. 823-1927.

1970 CHRIS CRAFT 23' Lancer, 200 h.p., I/O; plus extras. Excellent condition. $7000. Call after 5PM. 212-VI 3-8018.

1977 MAKO 25' Deep V - 200 h.p. Johnson. Full canvas. Outriggers, recorder, VHF; extras. Engine needs work. $12,500. 516-599-4325.

Mercruisers - 2; 325 h.p. FWC; 1:97-1 majored 79. Perfect cond. New manifolds; spare parts. 201-437-3099. 201-272-6527.



15' Fiberglas RUNABOUT Winner. Clean; 40 h.p. Evinrude, controls "74" Dilly breakaway trailer v/g. Good fishing boat. $850. 981-3449.

1973 25' NOVA Twin 188 h.p. Merc. Cruiser drives, 2 batteries, gauges, carburetors, hour meter. Full vancas, tonneau top, DF. All 2 years old. VHF, CB plus other extras. Excellent condition. Fast boat. Stein's Boats & Motor Sales, 23 River Rd., Sayville, NY. 516-567-3313.

14' 1974 CRESTLINER Fiberglass Runabout, windshield, seats, steering. Evinrude/Johnson controls. No motor; good condition. $600. 516-242-3821.

23' THUNDERBIRD, 1970 with 215 Mercruiser. Very good condition; VHF, flasher-recorder. Full canvas and many extras. $6500 including trailer. Financing available. 301-320-3565.

BOATING EQPT.

RAYTHEON RAY-53. All-channel VHF radios are proven, punch-through performers. The price is right. The warranty is two years. The place to find yours is HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Hwy., Islip. 516-581-0194.

WANTED: Fighting chair with footrest. Good condition. Days: 516-741-3198. Eves. 516-735-4691.

BOAT TRAILER REPAIRS: Complete with all new galvanized parts & a complete line of top quality Marine Supplies at discount prices. FAZIO Mfg. Inc., 87 Arlington Ave., St. James, N.Y. 11780. 516-265-3036.

Super Cheater Depth Recorder by Aqua Meter; 0-40 ft. One year old. Perfect cond. $100. Nylon cast net for bunker, with book. Little use. $25. 878-0567.

22' Galvanized Shoreline Dual Axle trailer w/power winch. $900. Will swap Heathkit white line recorder for good 6/0 or 4/0 reel with good trolling rod. 516-799-0164.

100% Stainless Steel marine products: rails, towers, ladders, brackets, hinges, cleats, rod holders, shafts, struts, chocks, fasteners, pulpits. Custom & Standard products available. SEABRITE STAINLESS SALES CO., 63 Morris Ave. & Hwy. #35, Neptune City, NJ 07753; 201-988-8818. Marine catalog $1.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single and tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & Permanent hitches for sale or rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 Broadway, Woodside, NY 212-426-7039.

TRAILER HITCHES. The most complete Draw-Tite line of Class I & II hitches in stock in Long Island. Sales, installations & service. TOM CASH WELDING, Lake Ronkonkoma. 516-JU 8-6143.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie Compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

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FOR SALE: 2 Garcia Mitchell Reels. Complete pole and line. Used few times. $45 Take All. 212-278-5119.

FOUR SEASONS RIGS. Custom fishing rig manufacturer. "Night-Glow" & Hot Pink whiting and ling; also flounder corn special, Tandem red dot fluke, High-Low pearl weakfish, Bluefish mullet. Over 60 different saltwater rigs. Dealers inquiries welcome. 940 Harrison Rd., Toms River, NJ 08753. 201-929-1881.

SPROAT HOOKS #16. Hand tied. 6/$1 + S.A.S.E. A. Kaplan, 35-63 80th St., Flushing, N.Y. 11372.

PENN REELS
MADE IN U.S.A.

PENN REELS: 9MS-$24.95; 209MS-$26.95; 160M-$19.99; 155M-$21.95; 500SM-$29.99; 140M-$39.95; 200M-$27.95; 113H-$59.99; 114H-$69.99; 115-$89.99; Intl. 30-$215; Intl. 50-$260; 712Z-$29.95; 710Z-$32.95; 704Z-$38.99. LON WANSER BAIT & TACKLE, 3818 Merrick Rd., Seaford; 516-SU 5-1138.

MACKEREL RIGS. Catch 'em "5" at a time with this scientifically designed mackerel rig. Guaranteed to be effective! First time available to public. This is the secret you've been searching for. For two scientifically designed mackerel rigs, send $2.50 to: R. McKENZIE, 1938 East 17th St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229.

SPECIAL OFFER—Two mackerel trees hand-tied to perfection, for only $1.75. Also three flounder killer; hand-tied rigs for only $1.75. RELIABLE FISHING TACKLE, P.O. Box 195, Rockaway Park, NY 11694.

Continued On Next Page

Free Catalog. Fine saltwater fishing tackle at low, low prices. Write to: WEST FALMOUTH TACKLE, Box 690E, West Falmouth, MA 02574.

Catch more fish...with super designed saltwater rigs. Send for free catalog now!! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. I, P.O. Box 437, Kearny, N.J. 07032.

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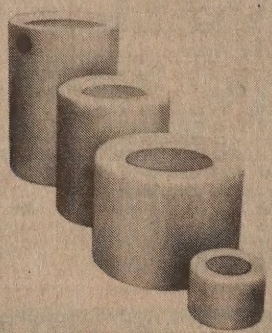
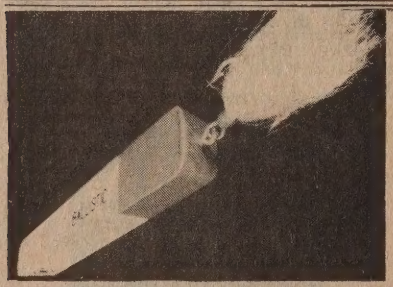
SEALINE SERIES: 27H-$39.95; 47H-$41.95; 30H-$39.99; 50H-$40.95, 300H-$51.95; 400H-$61.95; 600H-$69.95; 900H-$77.95; Regal Series: D1300-$27.99; D1600-$29.99; D2600-$34.95; D4000-$41.95; D7000-$45.95. LON WANSER BAIT & TACKLE, 3818 Merrick Rd., Seaford; 516-SU 5-1138.

FREE BROCHURE—Best damn fishing rigs money can buy! AQUA-CLEAR TACKLE, 314 Cherry Rd., Atco, NJ 08004.



LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps and accessories. For free brochure send $.25 P/H. The Caddy Co., 57 Bayonne Ave., Dept. L, Central Islip, NY 11722. 516-234-0144.

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS. Flounders are committing suicide on this famous 3-hook rig especially designed for the meat fisherman. Special design and construction keeps tangles at a minimum. All hand-made, finest quality material. Three completly tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.



BALLISTIC LURE of Nantucket fame. Reach that school of fish while others cast short. We guarantee it. $3.95 plus $1 mailing. Wilson Lure Camping & Fishing Products, Dept. L, P.O. Box 3771, Philadelphia, PA 19125.

MISCELLANEOUS

FISHING LOG—Pre-printed on 28 lb. Ledger, 75 pages, 5½x 8½ plastic bound in attractive blue covers. Contains all the important data to keep consistent accurate records. Price $3.98 + $1 post./handl. Send check or money order to: F. Flad, 147 Smith Avenue, Holbrook, N.Y. 11741.

DOCK SPACE For Rent: From 16' to 40', Bulkheaded Canal. Security guard, electric, water. Mastic Beach Property Owners Association, 281-8297 till 8PM.

SAVE ON ALL Marine Accessories. Hitches our specialty: Reese, Valley and DrawTite. All types sold and installed. Marine 12-volt refrigerators from $139. Call us last. GRAND AM, 585 East Jericho Tpke., Huntington Station, NY.; 516-673-6370.

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KNIVES—KNIVES—KNIVES
The finest selection of fisherman's knives available. Send $1 for "The Anglers Catalog of Knives." MI-DE-SU PRODUCTS, 67 N. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801.

Marine Transport—T.K.'s BOAT HAULING. You call; we haul! 24 hr. Emergency Service. Local & Long Distance; launching and hauling at any desired location. Up to 35'. Fully insured carrier. Call: T.K., 516-623-2967.

EMBLEMS—Direct from manufacturer. Swiss embroidered; custom made to your design. Send sample or sketch and quantity needed for free quotation. DAVID HAEMMERLE & Sons, Inc., Box 711, W. New York, NJ 07093.

LOBSTER TRAPS & LOBSTER FISHING EQUIPMENT. Lath, frames, funnels, warp buoys, Osco haulers & parts. Everything! 516-427-4063.

Marine Drapes & Interiors. Thousands of patterns and fabrics. Cushions to carpets. FOREAN KUSTOM, 549-9489.

Psst...wanna buy some grass? Marine Astro Turf starting at $2.99 sq. yd. Custom installation, any size craft. Our premises... or yours. Available in a variety of colors - solids & tweeds. All in stock. "Boat Yards Welcome." Pat's Carpet Outlet, Inc., 110 Saxon Ave., Bay Shore. Call 665-4670 or 665-4822.

FISHERMEN'S BELT BUCKLES—Heavy, solid metal buckles in handsome, antiqued finish. Your choice of striped bass, bluefish, tuna, porgy, fluke, flounder, shark, harpoon dart. Hundreds sold. Money back within 7 days if not satisfied! Send ck or M.O. for $7 to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566. Also available: striper pin $7; striper medal $9.95.

MATE WANTED
For new 1981 42' Sportfisherman out of Sheepshead Bay. Private use only. Mostly daytime, 5 days a week. Fishing background preferred. Phone Mr. Ain, 516-239-1503.

TAX SHELTER: Donate boat to Boy Scouts "Sea Scouts." Tax advantages, appraisals arranged. 212-242-1100, Ext. 244.

OPPORTUNITY for fully licensed captain, with or without boat, to run charter or open fishing operation out of well-established Fire Island Inlet Marina. Please indicate operating expenses, experience, etc. P.O. Box 922, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11570.

Custom made seats. Buy local, not Florida. Recoveries of fold-down seats. Don't wait for spring. Bring them in now. Call for price. FOREAN KUSTOM 549-9489.

FISHERMAN'S LOG: Record your fishing trips on beautiful pre-printed fishing log. Contains trip #, date, crew, fishing area, weather/wind, water condition, water temp.; fished-for, fish caught and remarks. Fits 3-hole binders. Striped bass or bluefish background. 100 sheets $4.98 + $1 post./handl. Send check or money order. T. Spinelli, RD #5, Box 292, Jackson, NJ 08527 15-'82.

SUNGLASSES—SPECIAL OFFER... Bausch & Lomb finest quality Ray-Ban "Aviator" style sunglasses with G-15 glass lenses. Retail price $35 - your price $24.95, tax & post. incl. Complete with Bausch & Lomb Ray-Ban case. Specify gold, silver or black tone. Satisfaction guaranteed. Send ck. or m.o. for $24.95: World Wide Optics, Box 86, Dept. 481 F, Syosset, N.Y. 11791.

Wholesale Marine Fasteners. Stainless, silicon bronze. Full line. Shop parts. O-Rings. Free catalog. ARONMARINE, 61 Mastic Beach, New York 11951; 516-281-3366.

BOAT INSURANCE—All risk. 12-month policy with unrestricted navigational limits. Extremely competitive rates. Quick quotations. Paul Krause, 145 Higbie Lane, West Islip, N.Y. 11795. 516-587-7837.

REAL ESTATE

CABIN on 1/2 acre+. Between maintained road and 80' frontage on Delaware River near Village of Hancock, N.Y. Beautiful spot. Asking $11,000. 212-749-1207.

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Station business & equip. for sale. $8500 pays all. Land lease available. Low rent; immed. takeover. Call 516-363-6024 after 6PM.

HAMPTON BAYS: 1 & 2 bdrm housekeeping cottages directly on Tiana Bay—beach, free boats, dock. Free Mooring. Summer weekly $300-$350. CEDARS COTTAGES, 30 Rampasture Rd., Hampton Bays, NY 11946; 516-728-8558; 728-3296.

FOR SALE: Existing small boat Marina, rental skiffs, tackle shop, refrigeration and workshop. South Fork, Eastern L.I. Estate Sale. Owner. 516-324-2550.

FORGET THE FLOWERS

(Continued from page 22.)

mouths are made of. Once hooked, the fish must be manhandled away from the bottom as quickly as possible. There is no room here for any finesse—you gotta get that fish away fast or it will surely seek some obstruction to hide in, resulting in either cutting your line on the sharp barnacles that encrust underwater growth or wedging you in some crevice so solidly that you must break your line eventually. The only trick that ever works at times, should you get hung up by a blackfish, is to let some slack into your line, which may cause the fish to swim out of its hiding place, believing it is free.

Well, to make a long story short, we caught a lot of fish that day, and the pool went to some lucky lad who boated a five pound blackie. I had kept a dozen fat flounder, and Eddie did an excellent job of turning them into a batch of fillets that everyone at home would enjoy. Forcing a few bucks into his pocket to show my appreciation for a job well done, I wondered how many passengers realized how much of these lads depend upon tips to supplement their incomes. Surely, a few bucks for services rendered is not too much to pay to deserving lads at the end of a long day, is it? Most boats do not have set rates for cleaning fish, so decent sportsmen are guided by their conscience in this respect, and gauge prices according to the amount and the caliber of the work performed.

Sitting in the wheelhouse once again, I continued my chat with Captain Pete as I entered some notations in my log. Noting my pre-occupation, Pete offered some information for me to enter, data that he was recording in his own log. "Don't forget that the best fishing was on the ebb, and that the amount of blackfish caught today was more than twice as many as we caught yesterday," Pete said, further musing that he might start taking fiddlers along in the future if the blacks really took hold. "And," he added as a footnote, "you can forget those flowers."

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	5:10	5:45	5:55	6:25	5:40	6:20	6:45	7:15	8:15	8:50	8:30	8:55	5:10	5:40	4/30
FRI.	6:10	6:35	6:50	7:20	6:40	7:10	7:40	8:05	9:20	9:50	9:25	9:50	6:05	6:30	5/1
SAT.	7:05	7:25	7:40	8:10	7:35	8:00	8:30	8:50	10:20	10:40	10:20	10:40	6:55	7:20	5/2
SUN.	7:55	8:15	8:35	8:55	8:25	8:50	9:20	9:40	11:15	11:30	11:10	11:30	7:45	8:10	5/3
MON.	8:40	9:05	9:20	9:45	9:15	9:35	10:10	10:30	–	12:10	–	12:05	8:35	9:00	5/4
TUE.	9:35	9:50	10:15	10:35	10:10	10:30	11:05	11:20	12:20	1:00	12:20	12:55	9:25	9:50	5/5
WED.	10:25	10:45	11:05	11:30	11:05	11:25	11:55	–	1:15	1:55	1:10	1:50	10:20	10:40	5/6
THUR.	11:20	11:40	–	12:00	–	12:05	12:10	12:50	2:05	2:55	2:05	2:45	11:10	11:35	5/7

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

5/1	5:56	7:58
5/2	5:55	7:59
5/3	5:54	8:00
5/4	5:52	8:01
5/5	5:51	8:03
5/6	5:50	8:04
5/7	5:49	8:05

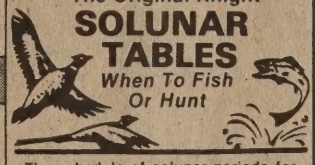
Moonrise/Moonset

5/1	4:42AM	4:52PM
5/2	5:16AM	6:06PM
5/3	5:54AM	8:00PM
5/4	6:30AM	8:38PM
5/5	7:13AM	9:52PM
5/6	8:02AM	11:01PM
5/7	8:56AM	—

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
5/4	5/10	5/19	5/26

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt



The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	2:25	**8:30**	2:40	**8:25**
Fri.	3:10	**9:20**	3:30	**9:45**
Sat.	4:00	**10:05**	4:15	**10:35**
Sun.	4:50	**11:00**	5:10	**11:25**
Mon.	5:40	**11:50**	6:00	—
Tues.	6:35	**12:20**	7:05	**12:55**
Wed.	7:35	**1:25**	8:15	**2:00**
Thurs.	8:45	**2:35**	9:20	**3:05**

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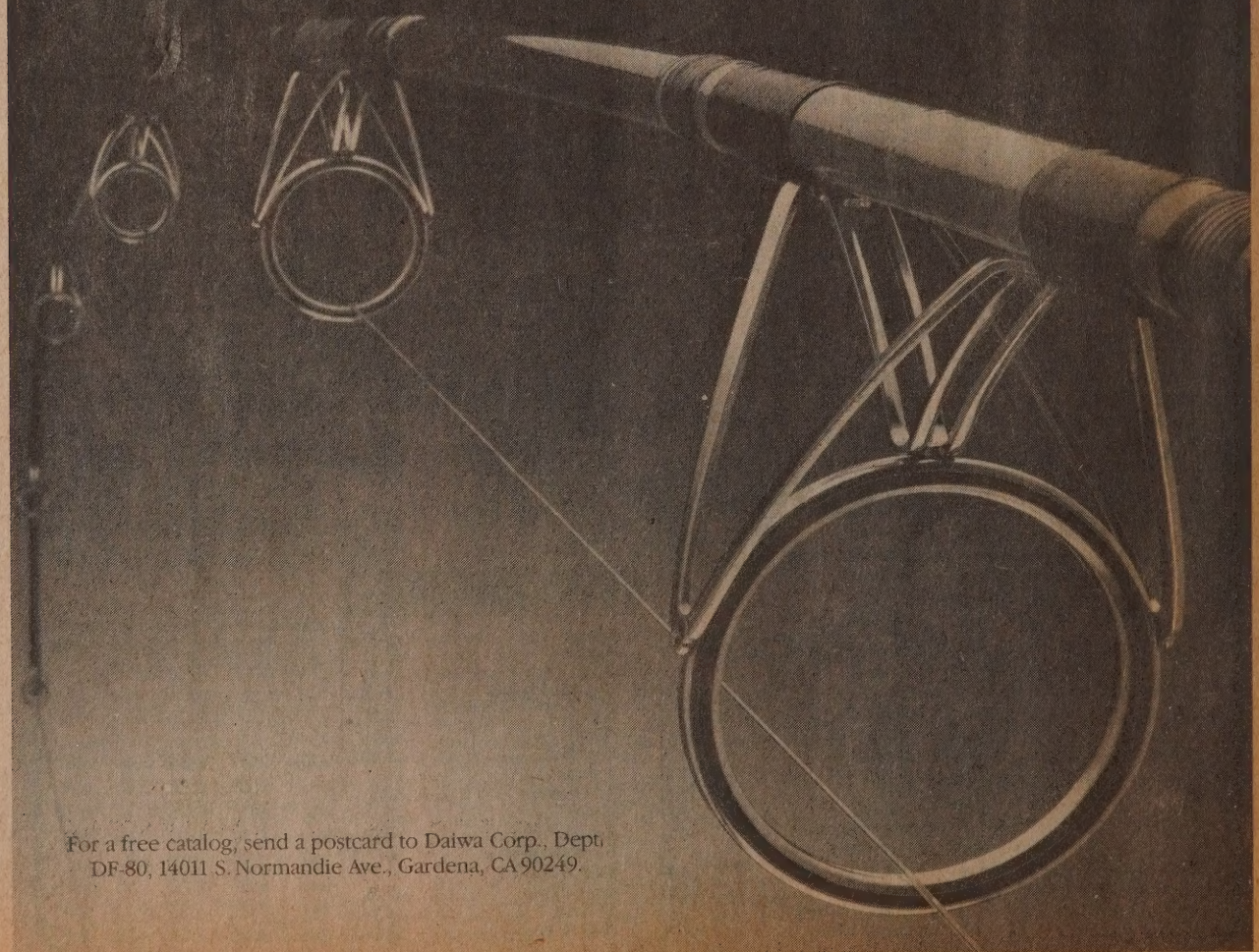

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